Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Second Summit of G-15 Continues in Caracas 1
Draft Declaration Viewed *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 1
Countries Willing To Join *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 1
Venezuela's Perez Closes Summit *[Caracas TV]* 2
Malaysia's Mahathir Speaks *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 3
Mahathir on G-15 Membership *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 3
News Conference Held *[Caracas TV]* 4
Summit Results Analyzed *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 5
Indonesian Proposals Approved *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 6

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OAS Official Rejects Haitian Congress Request *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 8
Rio Group Ministers Begin Meeting in Colombia 8
State Position on Haiti *[AFP]* 8
Bolivia's Paz Urges Area Initiative *[AFP]* 8
Central American Ministers Begin Meeting *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
Argentina's Di Tella Arrives in Venezuela *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 9
Southern Cone Ministers Sign Agreement *[Lima LA REPUBLICA 23 Nov]* 10
President Collor Sends Letter to Menem *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 10
Mercosur Countries Reduce Customs Fees *[Brasilia Radio]* 10
Antinuclear Meeting Ends in Santiago 19 Nov *[Santiago EL MERCURIO 20 Nov]* 10
Argentina, Brazil End Talks on Nuclear Safety *[Brasilia Radio]* 11

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Aldana Calls For Unconditional Talks With U.S. *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 12
Reported 'Impasse' in Talks With Moscow Denied *[Hamburg DPA]]* 12
Spanish Embassy Accused of Encouraging Dissidents *[Madrid EFE]* 12
Iraqi Ambassador Appeals for Embargo Revocation *[Havana Radio]* 13
Cubanacan Enterprise Opens Clinic in Sao Paulo *[Havana TV]* 13
Parliament 'May' Reinstate Position of President *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 13
Politburo Meeting Discusses Fuel, Measures *[Havana TV]* 14
Escalona Convenes ANPP Session for 26 December *[Havana TV]* 15
News Agencies Delegates Send Message to Castro *[Havana Radio]* 15
Parked Tractors To Continue Being Maintained *[Havana TV]* 15

Haiti

Aristide on French, U.S. 'Hypocritical Behavior' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15
Embargo Evaded With Fuel Shipment From Europe *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 16
Senate Resolution Asks OAS To Lift Embargo *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 16
Senator Returns From Diplomatic Mission Abroad *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Honorat Reports 200 Deaths in Recent Unrest *[Bonaire Radio]* 17
Honorat Withdraws Electoral Council Bill *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Anti-Embargo Hunger Striker Interviewed *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Guards Kill 'Terrorist' Inside Palace Grounds *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
MIDH Leader on 'Good Faith' of Negotiators *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18

Jamaica

Manley Represents Caricom at Rio Group Meeting *[CANA]* 19

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Army Refuses To Cooperate in Investigation *[Radio Venceremos]* 20
'Preliminary Agreements' on Police Reached *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 20
Arena Rejects Opponents of Peace Process *[EL MUNDO 27 Nov]* 20
Villalobos Comments on Obstacles to Peace Process *[Hamburg DPA]* 21

Honduras

Electrical Power Union Issues Communique *[LA PRENSA 29 Nov]* 21
Workers Demonstrate in Support of Electric Union *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 22
Union Leaders Fired *[Panama City ACAN]* 22
Reported FMLN Arsenal Seized by Army *[Panama City ACAN]* 23
UNUCA Investigates Reports on Arms Trafficking *[Panama City ACAN]* 23

Nicaragua

President Chamorro on Economy, Episcopal Letter *[Panama City ACAN]* 23
Government Minister Responds to Episcopal Letter *[Managua Radio]* 24
Ortega Talks About Chamorro, Cuba in Interview
[Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 22 Nov] 24
Government Minister on Search for Recontra Leader *[Managua TV]* 25
Armed Forces To Act Against Terrorism *[Managua Radio]* 26
UNO Presents Issues for Discussion to Government *[Managua Radio]* 26

Panama

Security Forces Raid Companies After Coup Tip *[CRITICA LIBRE 29 Nov]* 26
Endara Defends Raids *[Panama City TV]* 27
Report on Security Agencies *[EL SIGLO 30 Nov]* 28
Forces Using 'Gestapo' Tactics *[CRITICA LIBRE 29 Nov]* 28
Noriega Plot Alleged *[EL SIGLO 30 Nov]* 29
Presidency Raid Denied *[CRITICA LIBRE EL DOMINGUERO 1 Dec]* 30
Security Chief Denies Incident *[Panama City Radio]* 30
Lawyer: U.S. Court To Question Former Officers *[EL SIGLO 27 Nov]* 31
Court Report Denied *[Panama City Radio]* 31
U.S. Air Force Said Operating at City Airport *[LA CRONICA 27 Nov]* 31
Committee Plans To Commemorate U.S. Invasion *[LA PRENSA 26 Nov]* 31
New Arrest Order for U.S. Serviceman's Killer *[CRITICA LIBRE 30 Nov]* 32

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Oil Exploration Rights Claimed in Falklands *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 33
Menem Meets Haiti's Aristide *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 33
Oil Exploration Rights Claimed in Falklands *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 33
More Police 'Supergang' Arrests Made *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Nov]* 33

Brazil

Collor 'Unwell,' Resting for Trip to Cartagena *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Minister on Policy To Avoid Deep Recession *[Brasilia Radio]* 34
Congress Keeps Presidential Veto to Salary Law *[Brasilia Radio]* 35

Iran Seeks Financing for Hydroelectric Plant *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 23 Nov]* 35
Haiti To Release 12 Brazilian Citizens *[Brasilia Radio]* 35

Chile

U.S. Congress Defeat of Aid Measure Praised *[EL MERCURIO 23 Nov]* 35
Envoy Reports on Letelier Indemnification Amount *[Santiago Radio]* 35
Aylwin Travels to Colombia for Rio Group Meeting *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Silva Cimma Congratulates Ghali, Shevardnadze *[EL MERCURIO 23 Nov]* 36

Colombia

Guerrillas Release Kidnapped U.S. Engineers *[Madrid EFE]* 36
CNGSB Peace Talks Given 'Priority Status' *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 22 Nov]* 36
Commission Asks Guerrillas for Cease-Fire *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 37
Government-Rebel Talks at 'Critical Point' *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 37
Gaviria Warns Rebels on Continuing Talks *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 38
Gaviria Criticizes Guerrillas' Attitude on Talks *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 38

Ecuador

Minister: Problem With U.S. Ambassador 'Settled' *[Quito Radio]* 38
Borja Ready for Talks With Peru's Fujimori *[Quito Radio]* 39

Peru

Fujimori Criticizes Human Rights Organizations *[Lima TV]* 39
Government Seeks Common Position on Cuba *[LA REPUBLICA 22 Nov]* 40
Foreign Minister 'Hopeful' on Border Dispute *[AFP]* 40
State of Emergency Extended in Three Areas *[Lima Radio]* 41
Alan Garcia Formally Accused by Attorney General *[EL COMERCIO 23 Nov]* 41
* Minister's Ouster Linked to 'Fujimori's Men' *[CARETAS 4 Nov]* 41
* Fujimori on Antidrug Policy, Terrorism *[Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR 25 Oct]* 42
* Official September GDP Statistics Released *[EL COMERCIO 4 Nov]* 44

Venezuela

Perez, Indonesia's Suharto Discuss Cooperation *[Caracas TV]* 45
Trade Agreement Signed *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 45

Second Summit of G-15 Continues in Caracas

Draft Declaration Viewed

PY2911180091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Text] President Carlos Menem and the other presidents of the Group of 15 [G-15] member countries are meeting at the Caracas Hilton Hotel on the last working day of the second summit of Latin American, Asian, and African chief of state. The Caracas Declaration will be released at the end of this summit. Following the preliminary work by the respective foreign ministers, the Caracas Declaration will comprise a new list of petitions to the industrialized North.

According to the draft of the Caracas Declaration, the G-15 will reportedly state that it is ready to begin immediate and constructive talks with its counterparts from the developed nations.

The draft of the Caracas Declaration includes a review of the international situation and details of the future commitment of the countries that make up the G-15. Each chapter specifically outlines issues of international interest, such as a restructuring of the United Nations, the situation in South Africa and the Middle East, and environmental and trade protectionism problems. The draft states that the environment, migrations, health, and drug trafficking are issues on which the cooperation between the North and the South is indispensable.

The draft supports nonselective and nondiscriminatory international cooperation on human rights. It also proposes a new international consensus on issues like the eradication of poverty, the foreign debt, the flow of funds, and international trade. It also promotes the creation of regional trade groups and the development of human, environmental, and energy resources.

These are the most important points of the declaration that the presidents will sign at about 1400 Buenos Aires time.

The chiefs of state and the representatives of the five nations whose presidents are absent will hold a news conference to discuss the results of this summit.

Dr. Menem will then depart for Puerto de la Cruz where he will spend the weekend. He has been especially invited by President Carlos Andres Perez.

According to reports datelined Caracas, tight security is being implemented by the Venezuelan Government in that posh Caribbean town where Menem will arrive with a small entourage. The chief of state will be lodged at the brand-new Mares Mares Hotel where he will stay until Monday morning.

As Carlos Menem departs for this beach resort, Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and the journalists who are covering this tour will travel to Cartagena where the Argentine foreign minister will participate in the preliminary meetings of the Rio Group.

During this second summit, the foreign ministers will, during their preliminary meetings, review the crisis in Haiti, the situation in Cuba, Latin American economic integration, drug trafficking, and international trade.

Officials of the 13 Rio Group member countries must review each point and leave everything ready for the signing of a broad agreement by the chiefs of state.

Countries Willing To Join

BK2911115791 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1027 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, Nov 29 (OANA-ANTARA)—The willingness of several members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to join the Group of 15 developing nations (G-15) was discussed by the heads of state and government attending the G-15 summit during their informal discussions at Guri, a small town, some 800 km southeast of here, on Thursday.

ANTARA correspondent Makiwawu reported the NAM countries expressing their willingness to join the group were the People's Republic of China, North Korea, Colombia, Kenya and Tanzania.

The heads of state and government who held the informal consultations at Guri were President Suharto of Indonesia, President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, Pervian President Alberto Fujimori, Mexican President Salinas de Gortari, President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, President Adbou Diouf of Senegal, Argentinian President Carlos Saul Menem, Indian Prime Minister Narashima Rao, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and President Borislav Joviac of Yugoslavia.

During the meeting, they also took up relations between the governments and the private sector in the developing countries.

They agreed on the need of the formulation of a common position in facing the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or earth summit scheduled in Rio De Janeiro in June next year.

They also discussed the ways and means on how the developing nations maintained their interests in strategic issues like trade and development.

The 11 heads of state and government attending the Guri meeting agreed that that the world security concept should integrally cover economic, environmental and social aspects and should not be limited to the military aspect as proposed by the developed nations.

President Suharto during the working session on Wednesday conveyed his views on the development of a new international order, which according to him should be based not only on economic or military powers of a country or a group of countries.

While in Guri, the leaders also closely observed a huge dam, the biggest in Venezuela, which was able to generate 10,000 megawatt of electricity.

They are scheduled to return to Caracas on Thursday evening local time or earlier Friday in Indonesia prior to the conclusion of their summit in the evening.

Venezuela's Perez Closes Summit

PA3011033991 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Closing speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at the Group of 15, G-15, summit at the Hilton in Caracas—live]

[Text] Presidents and Heads of State of the Group of 15 [G- 15], Foreign Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with great joy that I come to deliver these final words at the second summit of the South-South Consultation and Cooperation Group. I say joy because of my immense satisfaction. I am sure the other chiefs of state and government feel this same sense of satisfaction over the complete success of this second meeting of the G-15.

For our first summit, we went to Kuala Lumpur as guests of its illustrious chief of government. We were considering then the possibility of consolidating the group. Only seven members attended for various reasons, but we still realized the G-15's extraordinary potential. We made initial decisions that helped sow trust in the importance and significance of the initiative we had adopted at a Nonaligned Group summit in Belgrade in 1989. We left Kuala Lumpur convinced we had done the right thing in establishing the group. We brought back decisions that during the past year have begun to materialize into concrete developments. When we called the second summit, which according to a decision made in Kuala Lumpur would be held in Venezuela, we were already fully convinced that a consultation and cooperation mechanism had begun to operate for the countries of the South. The South comprises the chiefs of state and government of countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and one of Europe—Yugoslavia, whose representative, Mr. (Yovic), a member of the collective presidency, is here with us.

This meeting has been very fruitful. The communique that the media will receive will be read in all world countries. It is an expression of the reflections of the G-15 leaders over the past two years. It is an example of our profound conviction in the important role we will play in this new era of mankind following the disappearance of East-West confrontation, whose terror created uncertainty and confusion in the world for so many decades.

We have just witnessed the signing of three documents. One is a general document, which has been signed by all the foreign ministers of this South-South consultation and cooperation organization. The statutes were created by the Investment, Trade, and Technology Data Center, which is the result of the first summit in Kuala Lumpur; and the proposal was presented by the Malaysian head of state. It is an extraordinary step taken as part of the efforts toward South-South cooperation. It is undoubtedly an important step along the road that we have chosen to reach our place in the world.

There are also two bilateral documents that are aimed in the same direction: South-South cooperation. The Venezuelans are extremely pleased with these documents. One is a memorandum of understanding on the consultation mechanism between the foreign ministries of Senegal and Venezuela. The other is an agreement on the creation of a mixed Venezuela-Senegal commission. Senegal has been closely linked to us since colonial times; it is an important element in the crossbreedings which resulted in our race. That country lies in Africa, opposite us on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, yet we had never tried to strengthen our merely formal relations. This new agreement is a result of the G-15 and the South-South cooperation efforts. I want to publicly state that, as president of Venezuela, I am proud and pleased that this has been the forum in which Senegal and Venezuela corrected this unforgivable omission.

As a result of the first summit, we have also established ties with a great country of the Asian southeast. Malaysia is a member of that extraordinary organization for the integration of that region: the ASEAN. Today Malaysia and Venezuela are not only bound by agreements we signed after the Kuala Lumpur Summit that lead to our honor of having Prime Minister Mahathir visit Venezuela. Venezuela and Malaysia have already gone beyond agreements, and the trade between our two nations has begun to bear fruit. In practice, we have already seen the importance of the presence of this group, which will play a leading role in this new stage of North-South cooperation—instead of North-South confrontation—because that is the goal of the G-15.

We will, of course, combine our activities with those of the nonaligned countries and the Group of 77 because the G-15 does not compete with, collide with, or pretend to represent other groups or other southern countries. We will instead stimulate cooperation and teamwork in the activities of all the developing countries of the Third World that are included in this initiative for which we are celebrating a second meeting.

It will be up to Senegal, under the sponsorship of Abdou Diouf, its illustrious president who is here with us, to celebrate the third summit in the second half of 1992. We have also established that the fourth summit will be held in 1993 in Argentina under the sponsorship of President Carlos Menem.

We no longer have the weak force we had at the beginning in Kuala Lumpur, but we now have the strength of the agreements we have consolidated at this second summit in Caracas, Venezuela.

While bidding farewell cordially and in a brotherly manner to the illustrious leaders here in Venezuela, I also want to express our satisfaction with the fact that Senegal will host the third G-15 summit. This will allow us to continue

broadening our friendship with this African nation, for which we have so much affection and with which we have such a close blood relationship.

Chiefs of State and Governments of the G-15, I reiterate the profound appreciation of my government and the Venezuelan people for your presence here. I also reiterate Venezuela's commitment to continue its solidarity, commitment, and joint work to carry on the search for the great objectives of southern countries to rightfully incorporate ourselves in the possibilities of international welfare and justice.

Thank you. [applause]

Excuse me, I made a mistake when I mentioned the group of countries that will host the next summits. As I said, in 1992 Senegal will host the summit. However, in 1993 it will be hosted by India. The illustrious prime minister of India, our friend Rao, is here. In 1994, the host will again be Latin American and the summit will be held in Argentina. [applause]

Malaysia's Mahathir Speaks

BK2811101091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0328 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By Donald Baptist]

[Text] Caracas, Nov 28 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has called for a new era of global co-operation in which the interests and views of all countries are given due regard.

He said the new agenda should be for a "supportive world order" where decisions which affected the vital interests of developing countries were not made by a privileged few in total disregard for the view of the countries concerned.

"If democracy was the sole acceptable political creed, let there be a democracy also in the process of global decision-making," he told the second summit of the Group of 15 (G-15) here Thursday.

Dr. Mahathir, who is to hand over chairmanship of the group to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at this summit, was given the high honour of speaking on behalf of the Asian members of the group.

It was in recognition of the role Malaysia and he played in promoting South-South co-operation.

Malaysia was the prime mover in the formation of G-15, a working group of leaders of developing countries to act as a catalyst for greater co-operation among Third World countries.

Speaking after President Perez opened the summit venue of the launching of the South Commission's final report in August, Dr. Mahathir also highlighted environment issues, Third World indebtedness, the unfair treatment of developing countries by the developed ones and the compelling need for the South to work together to protect their threatened independence and to improve their development prospects.

He said that a "supportive world order" would look at ways to reverse the current unhealthy trends so that the developing countries could have a meaningful share of the wealth of this planet.

Any necessary adjustment must not be made only by the South but the North too must adjust, for in the end the North would benefit from the prosperity of the South.

"Before the North wags a finger at the alleged profligacy of the South it should first reduce its own massive budget deficits and live within its means.

"The North must know that their irresponsible spending is affecting world currency and financial markets," he added.

Mahathir on G-15 Membership

BK3011061991 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0439 GMT 30 Nov 91

[By Donald Baptist]

[Text] Caracas, Nov 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Leaders of the Group of 15 [G-15] developing countries have agreed to look into the possibility of expanding the body to provide for a more balanced representation in membership.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the criteria for admitting new members would be studied by the G-15 foreign ministers and their recommendations would most likely be considered at the next summit to be held in Dakar, Senegal.

He told Malaysian reporters covering the second summit, which ended here Friday, that Asia and the Middle East have been mentioned as areas from which the new members could be admitted.

The G-15 leaders felt that the group could be expanded because the present membership comprised only three countries from Asia—India, Indonesia and Malaysia—while Latin America and the Carribean had six and Africa five.

Dr. Mahathir said that until the criteria had been decided and agreed to by G-15 leaders and the countries to be invited to join, he could not name the countries.

He described the summit here, attended by 11 of the 15 heads of state of government, as a highly successful one which saw the G-15 making substantial progress.

He said: This is reflected in the seriousness shown by the heads who made it a point to attend. Only those who had cogent reasons were absent.

Heads of state or government from 11 countries—Algeria, Argentina, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe attended. Those absent were from Brazil, Egypt, Jamaica and Nigeria.

Dr. Mahathir said it is obvious the group has become a cogent and solid group which will contribute towards solving the problems of the South and making their voice and views heard in international fora, including the United Nations.

News Conference Held

PA0112033791

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish at 1455 GMT on 29 November broadcasts the closing of the Group of 15, G-15, summit live from the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Caracas. The ceremony starts with the signing of a 59-point document on international relations, South-South cooperation, and future commitments. This is followed by the signing of notes establishing relations between Venezuela and Senegal.

At 1505 Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez follows with his closing speech.

At 1526 Senegalese President Abdou Diouf delivers his speech in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish. Diouf says he is glad Senegal was chosen to host the next G-15 meeting and his country promises "to mobilize itself even more in favor of South- South cooperation, which is now a priority." He adds that "international relations are still unfair, both in the economic and political sectors" and "cooperation among developing countries has yet to be implemented." Nevertheless, developing nations want to "play a leading role in the changes in international relations."

The Senegalese president also reviews his country's programs designed to improve the people's quality of life and outlines the agreement signed with Venezuela to develop bilateral relations. Diouf then refers to the new international situation: "It should be characterized by the supremacy of the law, solidarity among nations, and respect for human rights." He says: "It is evident that the United Nations is the organization that can achieve democracy in international relations." However, he warns: "We should not harbor too many illusions" because "it all depends on whether or not we can convince the rest of the international community that this is the best option."

At 1540 Venezuelan Information Minister Andres Eloy Blanco announces that the presidents and delegates will now hold a short news conference with foreign and local media. He explains that a representative from each country's media will be allowed to ask one question because most of the presidents must return to their countries immediately.

The Argentine correspondent asks President Carlos Menem about the UN's role in international relations and the subsidy policy of industrialized nations. Menem answers that the document distributed to the media refers to the two issues, adding that "it is necessary to strengthen the UN's role." Menem emphasizes the "members' determination to endorse South-South cooperation without losing sight of a possible dialogue with northern countries, particularly with developed countries."

The Algerian media correspondent asks President Carlos Andres Perez what kind of analysis was made on the foreign debt issue. Perez says that "this is always a priority issue in South-South meetings and progress has been made" but "we are still dissatisfied and we will continue to strive for fairer treatment." He emphasizes that "this also involves the amount of protectionist measures that still prevail in industrialized nations" because it "makes it more difficult for developing nations to have the means to pay their international debts." Perez adds that "there is another issue, the subsidies that industrialized nations grant to many of their products so that they may compete with developing nations' products, thus limiting these nations' capabilities to pay their foreign debt."

The Indian media correspondent asks President Carlos Andres Perez if he expects an informal or direct response from the Group of 7 to the Caracas Declaration. He also wants Perez to explain the absence of approximately one third of the G-15 nations' presidents at the meeting. Perez explains that the G-15 "has not specifically addressed the Group of 7" so the group does not expect a direct response, but he hopes that "they will take the group's positions into consideration." Referring to the presidents' attendance, he says that "11 of the 15 presidents and heads of state attended the summit." He added that "it will always be difficult to get all the heads of state or presidents to attend" a summit because of their individual circumstances.

The international news agencies' correspondent asks President Menem if the group approved Argentina's proposal to increase the number of members. He also wants to know if the G-15 intends to replace the Nonaligned Movement. He asks President Perez which of the topics reviewed in the summit could be discussed in the Group of 8 summit in Cartagena. Menem answers that "practically all the countries have proposed" increasing the number of G-15 members, adding that they want "to reach an agreement concerning the addition of another Asian nation and, perhaps, another Middle Eastern country." Perez says that they "want a small group" so they might only add one or two members. In addition, the members decided "to open a permanent office manned by four experts to follow up on the issues that have been approved." Furthermore, "the country hosting the last summit and the countries that will host the next two summits will form a triumvirate that will be in charge of coordinating actions between summits."

When a reporter asks what has to be done to help the people and speed the integration process, Menem says: "It is not what we are going to do, but what we are doing." Menem then notes: "Our foreign ministers recently visited the Rose Garden in Washington, D.C. to sign the four-plus-one agreement, which includes the four countries of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and the United States. We are working to create a free trade area from

Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. Our countries also are conducting bilateral activities that will promote a more fluid and rapid market."

Indonesian President General Suharto is asked about his country's positions on several issues. Suharto answers that Indonesia's food production and family planning programs were accepted. The president adds that "Indonesia will implement the programs and they will be available to all G-15 members, as well as to other countries." On foreign debt, Suharto adds that Indonesia hopes that a committee of experts will be established to help the southern countries solve debt problems.

An Indonesian reporter then asks the Malaysian ruler about reforms in the United Nations "to improve its efficiency and effectiveness" as proposed by the G-15. Paramount Ruler Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Sultan Yusof Izzudin Azlan then answers in English, with simultaneous translation into Spanish, that the "United Nations can be reformed in many ways." He adds that the G-15 members belong to other UN organizations where they can discuss their opinions on human rights and other topics.

At this point, Venezuelan President Perez says: "The entire world is wondering about this issue, and the developing countries cannot be left out of this debate and any decisions made." The topic is so important, Perez adds, that "we agreed to prepare a G-15 position on the new international order, naturally headed by the United Nations. However, we did not want to act hastily so we agreed that in early 1992 the G-15 will announce its stand on this issue."

The next question is addressed to the president of Senegal, who will preside over the next G-15 meeting, on the debt problem in developing countries and the low prices of export products. Senegalese President Abdou Diouf answers in French, with simultaneous translation into Spanish, that the debt has been thoroughly discussed and "evidently the debt structure for the African countries is not the same as it is for Latin America or Asia." He notes: "Therefore, we have decided that a high-level group of experts will meet to study the debt problem and will propose solutions that we will study at the next summit in Dakar." As for raw materials, Abdou Diouf answers that it would be appropriate for the G-15 to present a clear and concise stand on raw materials and the increase in prices.

The last question of the news conference is addressed to Venezuelan President Perez, who is asked what the countries of the South believe must be done to change the North's attitude. President Perez points out that developing countries are trying to substitute confrontation with dialogue and to stress cooperation between the North and South. Perez adds that "most of our efforts have not been reciprocated by the North." Perez ends his remarks by saying that "during the summit we agreed to continue working for the prompt conclusion of the Uruguay discussions on defending the interests of the South in world trade."

Summit Results Analyzed

PA3011030291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2041 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Report by correspondent Alfonso Navarro]

[Text] Caracas, 29 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Group of 15 (G-15) on 29 November called on industrialized countries to broaden their cooperation to wipe out underdevelopment problems as a way to guarantee the world's future democracy and human rights.

"The South cannot deal with its problems on its own, the North cannot ignore the South's problems because by nature those problems inevitably reflect on the welfare of the developed world," according to the G-15 joint declaration.

The 64 points in the document at the end of the second summit meeting for South-South (G-15) consultation and cooperation reviewed the international situation, cooperation among developing countries, and the organization's future commitments.

The 11 heads of state or heads of government who attended the Caracas meeting recognized that the South's social and economic development is the responsibility of the hemisphere itself, provided "a favorable world atmosphere exists" in commercial, financial, and ecological areas.

The new international consensus includes eradicating poverty, not only through assistance, but by improving the self-sufficiency of the South, which represent four-fifths of humanity.

The G-15 requested reciprocity to its trade opening, encouraged by "its own economic needs, the new international reality" and by what it termed increasing protectionism by the North.

The G-15 called for the successful conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Uruguay Round, based on granting developing countries substantial broader access to markets.

It also called for establishing rules that guarantee the "stability and openness" of commercial relations, the elimination of unilateralism, arbitrary measures, and an end to trade harassment.

Regarding foreign debt, which "continues to be a negative burden for many of our economies," the G-15 demanded increased funds from international financial institutions and area development banks.

"The international community must assume the commitment to guarantee a net positive transfer of funds from multilateral financial organizations toward all areas and countries of the South.

The G-15 recognized the importance of recent external debit relief measures and reiterated the need to reduce its volume as well as its service.

The G-15 warned against creating closed commercial blocs because these will eventually cause disputes, tension, or instability. However, the G-15 endorsed regional and subregional integration as a way to broaden markets, increase productivity and competition, and encourage world investment.

Regarding basic products, according to the South, the last point for forming a new, fair world order is that producers and consumers must boost activity in terms of access to markets, opportunities, and making better use of technology.

The examination of the global situation, after which UN reform is expected, ended with the belief that the G-15 "should be formed to increase its efficiency and effectiveness and to adapt to the new international situation."

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said at a joint news conference that the G-15 will wait until next year to make a specific proposal on UN reform.

The declaration indicated that the handling of world affairs is a shared responsibility and is not the prerogative of a few states.

With the end of the Cold War and greater participation by the people in the decisionmaking process, the new common goals of humankind are the preservation of international peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development.

"Realistic means must be found to place the issues of economic development and international cooperation at the forefront of the multilateral agenda," the declaration stressed.

Regarding drug trafficking, the declaration stated that a global strategy must promote the lowering of consumption levels in all countries and measures to control drugs and replace crops so as to open new opportunities for farmers involved in this activity.

The G-15 committed itself to work for the growth of the international democratic order within the framework of international law based on respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence.

It called for speeding up the efforts by the international peace conference in the Middle East, the recognition of Palestinian self-determination, and asked for continuous negotiations to attain a "truly united, democratic, and nonracist society in South Africa."

The new consensus for development must stop measuring the progress of peoples in terms of gross national product and, instead, look at the fairness of the distribution of the fruits of development and how such needs as housing, education, and health are met.

The G-15 members stressed the role of foreign investment if it creates jobs, increases national resources, facilitates technology transfer, and promotes exports.

However, they warned that the flow of foreign capital must respect the sovereignty, culture, and development aspirations of the beneficiary countries.

In this framework, they welcomed the participation of the private sector in specific projects of South-South cooperation, as well as the creation of the South Investment, Trade, and Technological Data Exchange Center (SITTDEC).

Another specific project is the promotion of a meeting of financial experts to analyze the foreign debt problem and to find common approaches to the topic. The meeting will be held in the first half of 1992.

Regarding environmental protection, they reiterated that the greatest responsibility falls on the North, which produces 80 percent of harmful effects on the environment, because of its "irrational consumption and production" patterns.

"The unilateral imposition of new financial or trade conditions not only hinder the solution of environmental problems, but they will also contribute to worsening development problems and will lead to the polarization of North-South relations," the declaration stated.

According to the declaration, the UN conference on the environment and development to be held in Brazil in June 1992, "will provide an historic opportunity" to analyze these two topics in a "comprehensive, broad, and balanced" manner.

However, the G-15 did not announce a joint position for that meeting. The summit also did not, as had been expected, establish commitments with regard to the Amazon region and other ecological regions of the hemisphere which, according to the North, require resolute protection.

The G-15 agreed to hold the 1992 summit in Dakar, Senegal, and it accepted the proposals by India and Argentina to organize the summits in 1993 and 1994, respectively.

Indonesian Proposals Approved

BK3011091891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0824 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, Venezuela, Nov 30 (ANTARA)—Indonesia's proposals at the summit of the Group of 15 developing countries (G- 15), in Caracas, which wound up on Friday, were approved by all the participating heads of state/government.

The proposals were on projects including cooperation in food production, which also covered training programs for farmers in Africa, for agricultural experts, population and family planning programs, and a meeting of officials of the developing countries in Indonesia next year to discuss aid in facing foreign debts.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the participants have discussed in great detail matters relating to South-South relations, a new world order, basic human rights and the environment.

With regard to the possibility of an expansion of G-15 membership, Alatas said for the time being it had to be postponed, adding however that an expansion would be limited for the sake of efficiency.

It was also agreed that only heads of state are to attend a G-15 summit, and that they should make up at least two thirds of the invited heads of state, Alatas said.

The conference also agreed that the members' annual contribution amounted to 200,000 U.S. dollars per year.

The summit, Alatas said, had succeeded in fostering South-South cooperation, and drew up the next working plans.

OAS Official Rejects Haitian Congress Request

PA0112161891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2324 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Cartagena, 30 Nov (NOTIMEX)—OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares on 30 November ruled out a suspension of the economic embargo against Haiti until a democratic regime is reestablished in that country.

Baena Soares said he learned on 30 November of the request by the Haitian Congress for the lifting of the OAS embargo against the island.

The embargo will be made more flexible only if there is progress in negotiations to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to his post, the OAS secretary general said. Otherwise, the sanctions will continue because the democratic system of an OAS member country is at stake, the Brazilian diplomat said. Baena Soares is in Cartagena to participate as a special guest in a Group of Rio meeting.

The OAS established the embargo shortly after Aristide was overthrown by the military on 30 September.

The OAS secretary general said that the sanctions have at no time been directed against the Haitian people. These sanctions, he said, are a legitimate means of exerting pressure on the military officers who led the coup d'etat.

Baena Soares said an OAS humanitarian delegation will arrive in Port-au-Prince on 1 December to study the country's most urgent needs to try to ameliorate the effects of the embargo on the people. He added that another OAS commission will go to Haiti on 4 December to evaluate the status of human rights in the wake of the military coup.

A third OAS civilian commission, led by former Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, is seeking a political solution to the conflict, but has been unsuccessful in its efforts.

Rio Group Ministers Begin Meeting in Colombia

State Position on Haiti

PA0112023591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Cartagena, 30 Nov (AFP)—The call for new elections in Haiti is an "affront" to the Latin American system and only the return of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is acceptable, according to the first agreement reached on 30 November by the 13 foreign ministers of the Rio Group now meeting in Colombia.

While leaving the meeting with his counterparts, who are preparing the agenda for the fifth Rio Group presidential summit scheduled for 2 and 3 December, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus told AFP that the group is considering even harsher measures against Haiti.

Decisions adopted by the foreign ministers will have to be ratified by the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Jamaica.

The Costa Rican foreign minister said that the situation in Haiti is the greatest concern on the continent now and that the first meeting of the foreign ministers, which lasted until very late on 30 November, dealt solely with that subject.

According to Niehaus, there is a consensus within the Rio Group on the urgency of returning democracy to Haiti.

"That common position within the Rio Group is shown by the full support for the Santiago declaration on joint actions to defend democracy," the Costa Rican diplomat explained.

Meanwhile, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella told AFP that his country supports adding an amendment to the OAS Charter that would allow stronger measures when dealing with cases like that of Haiti.

He said that the goal is to give the organization options that would include an embargo, an economic blockade, and even dispatching peace forces.

"We want the OAS to have more strength," Tella said, emphatically. He added that the foreign ministers of the Rio Group believe in the "need for constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return to Haiti."

Tella reiterated that the group does not accept the coupists' recent call for elections. He said: "We totally disregard that call because there is a constitutionally elected president who must return to his post."

The 13 foreign ministers of the Rio Group will continue debates on Haiti on 1 December and could agree on harsher measures than the ones already imposed by the OAS on that impoverished Caribbean nation.

Other important topics, such as Cuba's reentry into the Inter-American system, will also be discussed by the ministers. Comments made by some foreign ministers show a wide difference of opinion on that subject.

Bolivia's Paz Urges Area Initiative

PA0212034591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 1 Dec (AFP)—On 1 December Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora urged Latin America to make its own development proposals in view of U.S. President George Bush's Initiative for the Americas, which defines the framework for economic relations between the United States and Latin America.

"We must create our own initiative in view of that proposal," the Bolivian president said.

Latin America wants the project to create a hemispheric free-trade zone to start sooner than stipulated in the Bush initiative, he stressed.

Central American Ministers Begin Meeting

PA2911173591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Report by Julio Ernesto Rodriguez]

[Text] On 27 November the Central American foreign ministers began a meeting to prepare for the eleventh presidential summit to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The foreign ministers will discuss the creation of a regional executive organization tentatively called the Central American Isthmus Community.

Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata announced that his country's proposal will be added to similar documents prepared by other nations in the area. Carias said that the new organization will replace the Organization of Central American States, ODECA.

[Begin Carias recording] ODECA was an organization that had serious problems in effectively coordinating the economic integration process and coherently facing the isthmus' problems. The perception of a community goes beyond a cooperation organization. The new organization is designed to handle the Central American economies in an overall way. The six countries' foreign ministries will then handle Central America's international contacts as a group. They will contact countries that comprise the international economic community; meaning the EEC, the United States, and Japan. The plan is for Central America to gain more prominence at the international level. [end recording]

The issue will apparently be the main topic of the foreign ministers' meeting and, consequently, the primary consideration on the agenda the presidents will review on 12 and 13 December when they meet in Honduras.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus reasserted his country's willingness to make the plan a reality because it would allow the implementation of economic and social development projects at international and regional levels.

[Begin Dreyfus recording] The name is a secondary issue for us. What we urgently need is to institutionalize a secretariat or an organization that implements our decisions. We [pauses] everyone knows the saying that there is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip. The presidents adopt the political decisions, but the difficult thing is to implement the decisions. Once the decisions are adopted, they are directed by the foreign ministers, meaning the executive commission, which prepares the agenda that is submitted to the presidents. The commission is responsible for seeing that the agenda is carried out.

The implementation phase calls for an organization, a Central American organization, not a national organization from one country or another. The commission must be a high-level technical commission. It should more or less follow our past experiences when Central American integration yielded results. Not all the results were good, some were bad, but if you check the statistics you will see that most of them were good. We must learn from our experiences and from the experiences acquired in Europe. [end recording]

One of the topics on the agenda, although there is no consensus on the issue, deals with security and the reduction of military armament. Dreyfus said he believes that some of the ideas discussed by the Central American countries' representatives deal with reforms to the functions that security corps must adopt given the changes taking place in the area.

[Begin Dreyfus recording] We need forces to enforce public order and implement legal decisions, which is necessary in the administration of justice. There are currently four basic concepts regarding national security: 1. guaranteeing the people's food supply; 2. guaranteeing economic development. If the population does not have any opportunities for an improved standard of living, there will be no security; 3. the ecology problem. Things happen so fast that five or 10 years of neglect can destroy a country's resources: its land, fish, oil, etc.; 4. the struggle against the cancer that afflicts modern societies: drug trafficking. [end recording]

The meeting is also being attended by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares, and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro. The event will conclude on 28 November, following a meeting with the region's economy ministers, once the agenda for the presidential summit is prepared.

Argentina's Di Tella Arrives in Venezuela

PY2711164691 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta at Government House]

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido di Tella is already in Venezuela.[as heard]

Regarding the Rio Group, he said that Argentina may suggest updating the OAS Charter to include more energetic mechanisms to prevent the installation of authoritarian governments in the region.

In the name of the Argentine Government, Guido di Tella will suggest that the Group of 15 become closer to the United States.

Southern Cone Ministers Sign Agreement

PY2911211691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Nov 91 p 12

[Excerpt] With the establishment of a unified traffic rule that will make it easier for South American citizens to drive their own vehicles on the highways of any of these countries, the ministers of transport, communications, and public works of the Southern Cone countries yesterday took the first step toward integration in the continent.

This measure seeks to eliminate traffic barriers for passengers and freight and to improve the conditions of assistance in border areas.

The agreement was signed by the ministers of Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Peru, and the Argentine under secretary of transport—Jose Henrique D'Amorin de Figueiredo, German Correa Diaz, Juan Alberto Wenninger, Wilson Elso Goni, Alfredo Ross Antezana, and Elio Carlos Cipolatti, respectively.

This occurred during the 18th Conference of Public Works and Transport Ministers of the Southern Cone countries at the site of the Cartagena Agreement Board, one of the three events that brought together in Lima these ministers and those of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

A session of the South American ministers will be held today. This is a new forum that reconciles the Andean Group with the Southern Cone.

As with the Andean Group countries, the Southern Cone countries agreed at the working meeting to establish a multimodal system for maritime transport and the "Fifth Liberty" system to liberalize passenger and freight transport on land.

Concerning prospects for railroad transport, they studied the alternative of a railway system between the towns of Santos (Brazil), Arica (Chile), and Matarani (Peru).

A railroad transport executive committee was created at the meeting for the Libertadores and Transcontinental highways.

They also agreed to establish simple doctrines for customs control that will facilitate effective passenger and freight transport. [passage omitted]

President Collor Sends Letter to Menem

PY2911203691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1656 GMT 29 Nov 91

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Caracas, 29 Nov (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem today received a personal letter from his Brazilian counterpart, Fernando Collor de Mello, in which he explains the reasons why he could not attend the Group of 15 summit held in this city.

This was reported by Menem's spokesman, Humberto Toledo, in the hotel where Menem is staying. Toledo said that in his letter President Collor stated that he had to meet with leaders of Brazilian political parties and hold meetings to analyze Brazil's economic stability.

Argentine delegation sources told journalists that the presidents who held a round of talks in the township of El Guri, 750 km southeast of Caracas, "did not have a good time because they were quite isolated and the place was not comfortable."

Mercosur Countries Reduce Customs Fees

PY2911162891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] As of 0000 on 29 November, the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] country members reduced their custom fees by 47 percent. An agreement on this was signed among Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. This is the first step in the establishment of the regional common market that covers 200 million consumers in the four country members.

Brazil and Argentina have a parallel bilateral accord under which the import taxes on dozens of products have been cut by 20 percent.

Antinuclear Meeting Ends in Santiago 19 Nov

PY2611215891 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Nov 91 p C12

[Text] The Third Latin American Anti-Nuclear Meeting ended in Santiago yesterday. Participants made a series of proposals in what is called the "Santiago Letter." The letter calls for the suspension of all Latin American nuclear military programs (bombs, submarines, small reactors); demands that France end its nuclear tests in the South Pacific; calls for the suspension of all Latin American nuclear electrical programs; and demands the promotion of efficient and environmentally safe energy sources.

A total of 37 experts and delegates from different Latin American countries participated from 15 November in the Third Latin American Anti-Nuclear and Alternative Energies Meeting (ELAN-FLEA'91) at the Catholic University Extension Center.

Participants discussed various risk situations in Latin American countries where the installation of nuclear plants, nuclear waste deposits, and even nuclear accidents have caused economic and environmental deterioration and a lowering of the standard of living. One of those accidents occurred in Goiania (Brazil) in 1987, which in the opinion of experts was the Latin American equivalent of "Chernobyl" because of its gravity, number of victims, and consequences.

The draft of the "Santiago Letter" demands that regional governments stop their military nuclear programs; that

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Cuba implement the Tlatelolco Treaty to make a reality the idea of a Latin American denuclearized zone; and to demand that France end its nuclear tests in Mururoa and Fangataufa.

The letter asks Latin American countries to stop their electro-nuclear programs and to transfer funds used in these programs to finance and implement more energy efficient projects and to take advantage and implement energy renewable programs.

The experts also agreed to call on Latin American legislatures to forbid the national and regional entry, transit, deposit, or import of nuclear wastes, and to prevent the construction of nuclear waste dumps in the region.

The letter demands an international discussion on compensations to Latin American countries for the negative environmental effects that developed countries caused in them.

The letter demands that North-South technological transfers include only technologies that are energy and environmentally efficient.

This "Santiago Letter" will be addressed to Latin American governments and the authors will try to include the proposals in the agenda of the UN World Conference on the Environment that will meet in Brazil in 1992.

The experts pointed out that Chile cannot install any nuclear plants because it is a country with high seismic risks. The experts also agreed that the use of alternative energy sources such as hydroelectric power and solar energy are cheaper than nuclear power plants.

Argentina, Brazil End Talks on Nuclear Safety

PY2511145091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Argentine and Brazilian Governments have concluded negotiations with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] over the signing of an agreement on nuclear safeguards. Under this new agreement, Brazilian and Argentine nuclear facilities will be inspected by the IAEA to ensure that the atomic facilities are being used for peaceful objectives.

Technological and industrial secrets of the two countries will, however, be preserved.

The tripartite agreement may be signed next month in Vienna, Austria, in the presence of Presidents Carlos Menem and Fernando Collor.

Cuba

Aldana Calls For Unconditional Talks With U.S.

PA3011044091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0049 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 29 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Cuba is willing to initiate talks with the U.S. Government at any time without prior conditions and even without an agenda, according to Carlos Aldana, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Aldana said that he believes that next year will be the most difficult one that Cuba has faced. He said that special rules, similar to those used during wartime, will have to be enforced.

During conversations with members of the pool of news agencies from nonaligned countries, which concluded its 15th meeting on 27 November in Havana, Aldana claimed that the disintegration of the socialist bloc in Europe has allowed the United States to rule the world and it now want Cuba's head.

Aldana said that socialism's downfall, particularly in the USSR, has forced Cuba into a difficult position. The situation is so bad that the sugar harvest has not started due to a lack of fuel, but in two years the nation should have 1 million bicycles to solve the energy problem, he said.

During the next three or four years, 0 thousand [number as received] of oxen must be trained to replace the nation's vehicles [words indistinct], he noted.

"The United States is sitting alone at a theater watching us. We are on stage and it is waiting for us to fall apart. The United States thinks that we are doomed to failure," he added.

The United States is not interested in initiating conversations with Cuba because it thinks "that our days are numbered," Aldana said.

"The United States wants us to hold what it calls free elections, it wants us to have a free economy, it wants us to open the doors to those who abandoned the nation so that they can come and take over," Aldana noted.

"The United States wants us to commit suicide," he said.

Reported 'Impasse' in Talks With Moscow Denied

PA2911182091 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1708 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 29 Nov (DPA)—A spokesman for the Cuban Foreign Ministry gave assurances today that the talks which begun two weeks ago between Moscow and Havana regarding the withdrawal of a Soviet military brigade from Cuba are continuing and "are not at an impasse."

The Cuban source, who asked to remain unidentified, told DPA: "The dialogue is complex and began on a wrong note. Cuba learned about the unilateral Soviet measure from the press."

The withdrawal of some 2,800 soldiers from a Soviet training brigade stationed on the island since 1962 was announced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on 11 September during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Moscow.

The measure was harshly criticized by President Fidel Castro's government, which described it as an "unilateral and unconditional" decision. Havana feels the measure is tantamount to "giving a green light" to a possible direct U.S. military aggression against the island.

A delegation headed by special Ambassador Vyacheslav Ustinov began formal negotiations in Havana on 15 November to prepare a timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent. A week later, most of the delegation members returned to Moscow, without Ustinov.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the negotiations are in a "preliminary stage." He downplayed the difficulties that have emerged in the course of the talks by saying that "every negotiation process goes through complexities."

The statement was confirmed by a Soviet source in Havana, who told DPA that "the current times lend themselves greatly to speculation and dramatization of those talks."

The source explained that "the difficulties in the dialogue resulted from the fact that the USSR considers Cuba's attempt to make the withdrawal contingent upon the elimination of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo unacceptable."

Fidel Castro's government insists that the withdrawal of the Soviet soldiers is unacceptable to Cuba without a simultaneous evacuation of Guantanamo Base, which has been occupied by the United States since 1934.

Spanish Embassy Accused of Encouraging Dissidents

PA3011153791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0110 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 29 Nov (EFE)—The Cuban Foreign Ministry, through First Vice Foreign Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo, on 29 November accused the Spanish Embassy in Havana of encouraging the activities of political dissidents against the Castro government.

On 24 November, Hidalgo summoned Spanish Ambassador Gumersindo Rico to the Cuban Foreign Ministry to verbally convey the charge and to tell him that the government has proof of this.

However, this information was not known until 29 November when sources at the Spanish Embassy in Cuba confirmed it to EFE.

The charge specifically involves three officials of the Spanish Embassy: Advisor Ignacio Ruperez, First Secretary Jorge de Orueta, and official Oscar Toribio.

The ambassador reacted, according to the same sources, by requesting to see the proof that the Cuban Government claims to have, which was not presented to him, and by rejecting the charges.

This is the second such charge that the Cuban Government has formally voiced to the Spanish Embassy; the first such charge came on 30 August and was lodged by Hidalgo himself before Advisor Ruperez, who at that time was serving as charge d'affaires while the ambassador was on vacation.

Diplomatic sources consulted with by EFE believe that the charge could be related to "repudiation meetings" against and the subsequent arrest and sentencing of dissident poet Maria Elena Cruz Varela, who was sentenced on 28 November to serve a two-year jail term for illicit association, printing clandestine matter, and defamation.

Cruz Varela is president of the Alternative Criteria dissident movement, a member of the Cuban Democratic Coalition (CDC), which in recent times has repeatedly called for free elections and democratic changes in Cuba.

Cruz Varela and other CDC leaders met on 18 November with Juan Luis Rodriguez Vigil, president of the community of Asturias (in northern Spain), to whom they voiced their views on the political situation in Cuba, which Rodriguez promised to convey to the Spanish Government.

Diplomatic sources told EFE that this meeting, the first between a foreign political leader and Cuban dissident activists on the island, took place at the residence of a Spanish diplomat.

Another factor that could be behind the charge against the Spanish Embassy is the concern voiced to the Cuban Government by Gerhard van Hattum, the Netherlands ambassador to Cuba, whose country is currently presiding over the EC, about the policy toward dissidents.

Van Hattum, diplomatic sources said, acting as EC spokesman, voiced his concern after meetings were held last week to repudiate Cruz Varela and another CDC member, Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, president of the Cuban Human Rights Commission.

Iraqi Ambassador Appeals for Embargo Revocation

FL2911222591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2051 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] During a news conference today at the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [OSPAAAL] headquarters in Havana, Iraqi Ambassador to Cuba Walid 'Abbas spoke about what he described as the inhumane results of the blockade and economic embargo placed against his country by the UN Security Council. The Iraqi diplomat mentioned that as of 26 November, some 68,093 children had already died in the 15 months of international action against his country. He said that this number could increase in the near future, in addition to the impact on transportation, health, and education.

The Iraqi ambassador added that on 2 December the UN Security Council will once again discuss the blockade and embargo. He therefore calls for international support to get the agreement revoked. During the news conference, we learned of a cable message sent from the OSPAAAL to the United Nations requesting that the United Nations attend to that situation.

Cubanacan Enterprise Opens Clinic in Sao Paulo

FL2911142391 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Servimed, a Cubanacan, S.A. enterprise, has inaugurated in Sao Paulo the first clinic at the Brazil-Cuba Medical Center where patients with vitiligo will be treated with the Cuban-developed medicine Melagenina. Servimed General Manager Dr. Ricardo Martinez has said that the clinic in Sao Paulo represents a ray of hope for the 3 million Brazilians afflicted by skin discoloration. The success of Melagenina in the cure of vitiligo has made it possible to open clinics, similar to the one in Sao Paulo, in Italy, Spain, and the Dominican Republic.

Parliament 'May' Reinstate Position of President

PA0212021091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2323 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Havana, 1 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] (parliament) may consider reinstating the post of president of the Republic during its second session.

Sources close to the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] leadership have noted that the separation of the executive and administrative branches (personified by Fidel Castro for the past 15 years) will be studied by the deputies on 26 December.

Castro holds the positions of president of the Council of State (chief of state) and president of the Council of Ministers (chief of government), in addition to first secretary of the PCC, the only party in Cuba.

For diplomats accredited to Havana, the return of the presidential system and election by direct vote of the people "would pave the way for Cuba to rejoin" the OAS.

For many politicians, diplomats, and journalists who live on the island, the ANPP's regular session will determine the political course Cuba will follow. The deputies will review changes to the Constitution, which has been in effect for 15 years, and to the country's electoral laws.

Article 141 stipulates that the Constitution can only be amended by a voice vote of no less than two-thirds of the ANPP's total membership.

The diplomats consulted by NOTIMEX said that the subject of Cuba will be discussed during the presidential summit of the Rio Group beginning 2 December in Cartagena, Colombia. Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela—who make up the Group of Three and belong to the Rio Group—believe that Cuba should be allowed to rejoin the OAS without prior conditions. Other countries, such as Argentina, think Cuba should only be permitted to rejoin the OAS after implementing "representative democracy and a regime of liberty" on the island.

The Fourth Congress of the PCC did not seriously consider changing the presidential post but decided to transfer the issue to the ANPP.

The PCC leadership has not dismissed the possibility of changes that would open its political system, which would go along with the economic flexibility that was granted to foreign capital with the formation of mixed enterprises.

Sources close to the PCC have noted that changes in the Cuban political system must be approved or rejected during the next ANPP session.

Politburo Meeting Discusses Fuel, Measures

FL3011172891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1425 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, presided over the November Politburo meeting held on 28 November. The meeting's agenda included a report on the development and the status of the talks regarding the presence of a Soviet Armed Forces brigade in Cuba. The governments of the two states are currently studying the issue as a result of the recent talks held in Havana on the position of each country. It was decided to hold further talks.

Several points were examined regarding attention to the daily work of the Central Committee in response to the resolutions approved by the Fourth PCC Congress. Likewise, it was approved to create a Central Committee Commission which will draft the new party statutes bill as well as a work schedule including the writing of the text and the process of consultation and enactment.

In light of the report given by the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government on preparations for the next session, the Politburo made suggestions and recommendations. In fulfillment of Fourth PCC Congress resolutions, it was approved to create a Central Committee Commission that will study and analyze, from the point of view of the party, the projects related to perfecting the organs of the People's Government. Other political and socioeconomic issues were also discussed. Finally, the Politburo analyzed the increasing difficulties and the tense situation originated by the fuel supplies and other raw materials from the USSR.

As it has been reported, a deficit in the shipments of fuel began on the second half of 1990. By the end of the year the deficit amounted to 3.3 million tons of the 13.3 millions accorded which made it necessary to drastically reduce consumption by means of a series of special measures. The USSR has agreed to supply 10 million tons for 1991. In other words, 3.3 million tons less than our country's demand. As of 30 September of this year, the deficit of what should have been delivered by then was 400,000 tons. By the end of October, the deficit had accumulated to 540,000 tons. At the time of the Politburo meeting, 280,000 tons were still undelivered from November's program of delivery of 732,000 tons which is less than the already reduced amount agreed for this year. The situation of fuel supplies from the USSR becomes more uncertain every day. It is still unknown how much fuel we will receive for the month of December.

The Politburo concluded that despite the efforts conducted and the results obtained in the more efficient use of fuels, important production and service activities have been affected, such as construction, light industry, sugarcane irrigation and drainage programs, preparation of rice fields, transportation, and others. Due to successive reductions of fuel allotments, organs of the administrative sector have been forced to considerably reduced their pool of vehicles in use. On the other hand, compliance with the measures implemented to reduce electric power consumption in the state and residential sectors, has made it possible to reduce by more than 1,500 gigawatts per hour the generation of electricity by October, in comparison to October, 1990. This represents hundreds of thousands of tons of fuel oil saved as a result of the stoppage, adjustment, and increase in efficiency in the production and service sectors on one hand; and the savings attained by the people in 90 percent of the homes, on the other.

However, an adverse trend prevails due to the domestic problems of the Soviet Union which are reported every day. For these reasons, the continuous efforts conducted by our government with Soviet authorities encounter a lack of commitment and uncertainty. For example, by October, the Soviet situation had resulted in a 20 percent reduction in consumption in comparison to the same

period in 1990. The reduction in combustible petroleum was 18 percent, in diesel it was 24 percent, and in motor gasoline it was 35 percent.

Therefore, vital production activities during this month and in the months ahead, such as winter planting and harvest and other activities related to the food program, as well as the sugar harvest which is yet to begin, could be seriously threatened. Meanwhile, the development of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and tourism objectives must be accelerated, which, together with the basic consumption destined to ensure vital services to the people, will bring about new and more severe restrictions, especially in the case of activities susceptible to adjustment such as, for example, the current length of television programing which will experience drastic reductions.

Escalona Convenes ANPP Session for 26 December

FL3011132291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has convened for 26 December at 1400 GMT the 10th regular session of the third legislature of the ANPP. In this manner, ANPP delegates will hold the last of the two sessions that are held every year.

News Agencies Delegates Send Message to Castro

FL2911154391 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1202 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] We are aware of the foreign pressures confronted by Cuba. We express our total solidarity with its people and reiterate that we are at the side of Cubans in their struggle to confront the situation of hostility and blockade imposed. This was stated in a message sent to Fidel Castro by the representatives of the Asian, African, and Latin American countries who participated in the 15th meeting of the organizing committee of the pool of news agencies of the nonaligned countries that met for three days at the Habana Libre Hotel in Havana. During last night's session, the delegates approved the meeting's final resolution that reaffirms the pool's line of information in the struggle against apartheid, Zionism, discrimination against women, and all forms of foreign aggression and intervention.

The delegates also approved a document presented by the group of Arab countries condemning the distortion campaign against those nations by the Western press.

Parked Tractors To Continue Being Maintained

FL2911154691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Approximately 10,000 tractors that are assigned to the agricultural and forestry enterprises throughout the country are idle and permanently parked because they have been replaced by animal traction in agricultural work.

The tractors, which have been parked because of a lack of fuel, will be kept in optimum condition until the country has fuel when the tractors will be given a more rational use. The Ministry of Agriculture inspects the equipment throughout the country and gives it the necessary maintenance in the hopes that this enormous investment made by the country in the area of mechanization will remain [word indistinct] in the best condition so that they can be put to work at the necessary moment. In addition, great efforts are being made to use other means to achieve greater conservation of fuel and lubricants.

Haiti

Aristide on French, U.S. 'Hypocritical Behavior'

FL3011191691 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0400 GMT 30 Nov 91

["Text" of a statement attributed to deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Cartagena, Colombia on 22 November]

[Text] The following is a message from ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the people.

Haitian brothers and sisters, lavalassian [lavalassiens], I greet you in the style of Charlemagne Peralte [Haitian hero known for his fierce opposition to the American occupation in 1915].

Haitian people: The forces of darkness, the forces of evil, a small group of military compelled me to provisionally leave the country one-and-a-half months ago. Today, while the OAS is attempting—without firm conviction—to restore democracy in Haiti, it is my duty to shed light on the hypocritical behavior of several ambassadors of so-called friendly countries who are trying to capture the Haitian people's confidence by taking opportunist stances in order to shroud their participation in this shameful blow to the nascent democracy and to better assuage the people.

Haitian people: Keep your eyes wide open. The enemy is everywhere. In one of my dialogues with you, I made you see the difference between Haiti's friends and Haiti's real friends. Today, I have proof that allow me to say we have been betrayed by countries that pretended to be our real friends. The 29-30 September events were the result of the work of the United States of America represented in Haiti by Yankee Alvin Adams who has done everything to kill the people's democracy in Haiti in order to impose the imperialist system on the people. The position adopted by the United States is only a position of doctrine.

Regarding Ambassador Jean-Raphael Dufour, I was naive enough to believe in the sincerity of that traitor,

that colonist. Dufour has betrayed me for $245,000. The proof exists. That is why I refused the political asylum he offered me with so much eagerness when I learned of this betrayal upon my arrival in Venezuela.

Haitian people: The hour of truth has rung. Dufour planned everything so he could pocket the $245,000 put at his disposal for his betrayal. Do you know that even before the coup d'etat was sparked, Dufour had personally called President Perez to ask him to send to Haiti two planes [number as heard] that would take me off to France for exile? Indeed, these planes were waiting for me at the airport very early that Monday [30 September] and took me to Venezuela. On that 30 September, I did not have any intention of going to the palace at all. However, under the insistence of Dufour who told me that everything would go off well and that there was no danger because he had already set up everything, I followed his instructions and went to the palace despite myself.

So, like Toussaint [Toussaint Louverture, a Haitian hero who was betrayed by a French general in 1802], I let myself be caught in the trap of the French colonialist, Dufour. I was then naive enough to believe that for the first time in its history, colonialist France, racialist France, the greatest enemy of the black race would help a black and progressive leader to get his country out of a deadlock. But, unfortunately, I made a mistake.

Haitian people: We have only one real friend. It is Venezuela that is doing its best to help us get out of this situation. It is now time for me to tell you not to count anymore on imperialist countries such as the United States, France, and even Canada that just denied political asylum to young militants. They are all hypocrites. Get mobilized. That is our sole chance. Alone, we are weak, together we are strong, together and together we form a powerful torrent. Up with Haiti! Up with Venezuela! Up with the embargo!

Signed: Yours in the style of Charlemagne Peralte, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.
Cartagena, 22 November 1991.

Embargo Evaded With Fuel Shipment From Europe

PA3011041891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1555 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The de facto Haitian Government has been able to circumvent the OAS-imposed economic embargo by obtaining a fuel shipment from Europe.

A Liberian-registered tanker unloaded 1.9 million gallons of gasoline and 1.3 million gallons of diesel. According to official sources, the ship came from a northern European country but according to U.S. reports, it came from Aruba.

Official estimates indicate that this amount will supply the country's basic fuel needs for two weeks.

The de facto government's Commerce Ministry announced new fuel prices, which entail an increase of nearly $1. Effective 29 November, a gallon of gasoline will cost $3.75 and a gallon of diesel $2.55.

Some economists believe the price increases are caused by the fact that the government had to purchase the fuel at market prices and to pay cash for it, whereas before Haiti benefited from the preferential prices of Venezuelan and Mexican crude as a member of the San Jose Pact.

Meanwhile, the Senate on 28 November adopted a resolution addressed to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares demanding the immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against the de facto regime.

The legislators asked that the government imposed by the 30 September military coup be recognized and demanded that the OAS members pay for the damage caused by the embargo.

Senate Resolution Asks OAS To Lift Embargo

FL2911215791 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpt] In a resolution, which was passed with 12 votes in favor and three against on 28 November, the Senate asks the OAS to immediately lift the embargo, to acknowledge the provisional government, and to redress all damages inflicted on Haiti by the embargo. The senators drafted this resolution after taking into consideration the meeting in Haiti between the OAS civilian mission and all parties concerned with the crisis, and the meeting of the parliamentary delegation with President Aristide and his representatives in Cartagena. They also acknowledged, through a statement made by the Senate president about that meeting, that they realized the parliamentarians had done all they could to reach an agreement.

The resolution uses the five points that were included in the Cartagena declaration and that gave rise to comments asking the international community to formally record that President Aristide had refused to approve the [Cartagena] resolution. The Senate asks the OAS secretary general to let the international community know that the parliamentary delegation is willing to find a solution to the crisis. It urges the OAS to lift the embargo immediately, to acknowledge the provisional government, and to get the EEC countries to acknowledge the government as well. It urges the government to bring the 34 OAS countries before the courts in order to redress all damages caused to the country. The Senate's resolution especially mentions the United States, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and France as countries that should be responsible for making amends for damages caused Haiti by the embargo. [passage omitted]

Senator Returns From Diplomatic Mission Abroad

FL2911221791 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Senator Bernard Sansaricq, absent from Parliament since 30 September, has been back for two days. Senator Sansaricq explains that he was not absent, but rather was working outside the country on behalf of the Senate and the government.

[Begin recording] [Sansaricq] I never neglect my work; I was working abroad for the government and the Senate.

[Reporter Ferrary] You said you were working abroad. Can you share with us what you learned?

[Sansaricq, hesitating] No. I think there are some jobs that one does for the Senate and the government that demand discretion; I wrote my report to the Senate and if they need to send me abroad again, they will. You must understand that the current government has no representatives abroad at the embassies, at the consulates, general consuls, and so forth. It was therefore necessary for someone to make contact with the foreign governments. There is a gap that we need to fill quickly. I am very concerned with that and came to discuss it with the Senate and the government in that we may soon establish representation abroad so we do not remain isolated. That is the type of work I have done abroad. I think that you can say the job was well done and that we will see results very soon.

[Reporter Ferrary] Regarding the current crisis in the country, Senator Sansaricq expresses optimism. He thinks that the crisis is an important lesson for the country and for the political leaders.

[Sansaricq] I am a very optimistic statesman. I am very optimistic about the country. I think that the country will come out of its current crisis. We are going through hardships. We are learning a tremendous lesson from which we will benefit. All countries go through difficult times; times of crisis from which leaders emerge. I think that many leaders are emerging while others are falling. We will emerge from the situation within a few weeks. Once we come out of it, I think that Haiti will be different; Haiti will thrive and become stronger. [end recording]

Honorat Reports 200 Deaths in Recent Unrest

FL3011132891 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Haiti's military installed Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat says some 200 people have died in the recent unrest since the country's 30 September military coup. That figure contradicts a report from the OAS that says 1,500 people have died. A mission from the OAS International Commission says the bodies of 60 of them were found in a common grave. The OAS report also charges that freedom of speech does not exist in Haiti.

Honorat Withdraws Electoral Council Bill

FL0212150391 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in Creole 1330 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] We have learned from several sources that Prime Minister Honorat has withdrawn the government's bill to set up the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] in charge of organizing the presidential elections scheduled for 5 January 1992.

According to Senator Ebramier Cadet, the law on the CEP must take the law on territorial communities into consideration.

Anti-Embargo Hunger Striker Interviewed

FL2911212791 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The four members of the Association of Young People's Power of Haiti who began a hunger strike on 25 November, protesting the OAS embargo against Haiti, continue their strike. Our colleague Guilleauto Francois interviewed one of the hunger strikers, Jude L. Jean-Jacques, who gave his opinion on these hard time.

[Begin recording] [Jean-Jacques] The entire Haitian population knows that we have been on a hunger strike since Monday as a protest against the embargo. Everyone knows that the OAS measure is illegal, unfair, arbitrary, and criminal. So, as patriots and as responsible democrats, we must let the OAS know that this is not acceptable. It is better to save the people than to [word indistinct]. They must lift the embargo because if they say they want the people to enjoy democracy, the people must survive long enough to enjoy that democracy. You cannot be killing the people while [words indistinct].

The assessment is positive. Petroleum products have arrived in the country. International opinion has been aroused. That is fine. They are aware of the country's problems. [passage omitted] They must lift the embargo as soon as possible so we can put an end to the hunger strike or they will kill us for the Haitian people's cause.

[Francois] Have you met with any OAS members or their representatives in Haiti?

[Jean-Jacques] Obviously. We have met with a certain Roland Tardif, who is a Canadian. He is the OAS representative in Haiti. I talked to him. [passage omitted] He has no right to say that the hunger strike will not lead to the lifting of the embargo. The embargo is illegal and inhuman. [passage omitted] I have been informed that the embargo cannot be lifted all at once, but that it will be lifted gradually. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Guards Kill 'Terrorist' Inside Palace Grounds

FL0212153891 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The arrival of the OAS humanitarian mission in Port-au-Prince on 1 December is not the only news.

There was another incident that occurred, this one in the courtyard of the National Palace where somebody managed to climb the National Palace fence on the side facing the National Pantheon on Sunday evening around 2010. He was killed by soldiers who were on sentry duty in the area.

The intruder did not have much time to walk on the lawn of the palace when the soldiers told him hands up and asked him [words indistinct]. But the climber did not respond and preferred to shoot at them. The soldiers, who were not joking, countered this attack militarily and this terrorist was killed on the spot.

The climber appears to have been thirty-years-old and was wearing brown trousers and a cream-colored shirt. Some confederates on motorcycles, who were waiting for their turn to enter the palace as well, took to their heels when they noted that things went badly. The justice of the peace of the southern section of Port-au-Prince came with his clerk to file a certified report. The climber did not have any identification card, but he had a 38-caliber gun No. 2089543 and did not forget to bring his machete.

The body was taken away by an ambulance from the Haiti State University Hospital.

MIDH Leader on 'Good Faith' of Negotiators

FL2911235291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Francois Benoit, second in command of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], has given an interview to our colleague Ernst Mercier at Television Nationale D'Haiti. In this interview, the MIDH second in command stated that democracy does not mean for one person to take power and impose himself on other groups. Democracy means for everyone to work together so the country can develop in respect and peace.

Benoit did not fail to mention the meeting in Cartagena. According to him, the parliamentarians showed good faith, and the other party should be blamed for keeping the country in the situation it is still facing. Mr. Benoit expresses optimism about the work to be done in the country, about the work that can help release the country following the negotiations. He nevertheless believes that the meeting in Cartagena was not handled with dignity. Let us listen to the MIDH second in command.

[Begin recording] [Benoit] [Words indistinct] democracy depends on a strong will, an ideal, and faith. The virtue of democracy relies on an act of faith in the application of democratic principles and rules, and as you said, in a universal application for everyone. Democracy does not mean that one group will take power and impose its will on another group.

It is a matter of cooperation, of preserving the main national interests; and of mobilizing and focusing all national efforts to help the country move forward and put an end to dissension as much as possible.

[Reporter] Regarding the elections to be held between 5 and 8 January 1992, the MIDH second in command asserts that the position taken by the prime minister follows the stance taken by the former president for continuing the negotiations. He adds that the constitutional deadline prompts the provisional government to hold elections.

[Benoit] Following negotiations between Parliament and the overthrown president, the Honorat government has tried to find a modus operandi that will aim at an agreement in defense of national interests. I think Mr. Honorat's stance answers the refusal of former President Aristide's party to continue the negotiations which had reached a deadlock. The electoral deadline is real. I think if the deadline is met as planned, we will participate.

[Reporter] Regarding the negotiations held in Cartagena, Mr. Benoit acknowledges the good faith of all concerned parties in reaching an agreement in the negotiations. He points out that [words indistinct] joint mission by the Haitian parliamentarians.

[Benoit] After the OAS efforts and the decisions about the embargo, both parties agreed to hold talks. [words indistinct] a tremendous step in the situation from where it stood before. The first step of the negotiations involved each party announcing its position; the positions are so centered that I do not expect the results to be found in three or four days. But I am optimistic by nature. I think that because the negotiations occured and both parties talked, a positive step was taken. I am expecting that there will be an effort on both sides to maintain dialogue and continue negotiating so that the country's interests will prevail over individual interests.

[Reporter] Mr. Benoit, do you think that there is any flexibility from the Haitian parliamentarians?

[Benoit] No doubt, because the Haitian parliamentarians went with the same titles [as heard] as the overthrown executive, and because they represent a segment of the national sovereignty. They agreed to form a delegation; they opened doors for negotiations regarding the essential points which concern the other party. I think that they showed great flexibility and good faith in attempting to find a resolution of the conflict of national interests. We also noticed that they came up against the former executive who, in a way, saw only his personal interests and considered only his own participation in the problem. Just a mention of his name and a suggestion

of his immediate return caused a breakdown in the negotiations, which does not indicate the best interest of the country.

[Reporter] Finally, while discussing the manner in which the negotiations were conducted by the OAS mission, Mr. Benoit stated that the negotiations were held with an unjustifiable lack of dignity. [end recording]

Jamaica

Manley Represents Caricom at Rio Group Meeting

FL2911190991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1839 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 29, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley was leaving here Friday afternoon for Cartagena, Colombia to represent the Caribbean Community (Caricom) at the Rio Group of Nations conference starting Sunday. Earlier this week, Manley missed the Group of 15 (G-15) meeting in Caracas, Venezuela on the advice of his doctors because of a cold. A statement issued Thursday by his office said the prime minister had recovered.

The Rio Group meeting will include heads of governments from South and Central America. Discussions will focus on political and economic issues of common interest to the region. This is the first time that Caricom is being represented at a Rio Group summit. On his way to Cartagena, the Jamaican prime minister will stop over in Miami for meetings with a number of Caricom heads of government, President Rafael Callejas of Honduras and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury David Mulford [title as received], who are all attending a Caribbean business conference there.

El Salvador

Army Refuses To Cooperate in Investigation

PA2911152491 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Just as in the case of the Jesuit priests, the Armed Forces have refused to cooperate in the investigation of the El Mozote massacre.

Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano, referring to a request made by the Attorney General's Office asking for Army protection to conduct the investigations in El Mozote, said the physical safety of the investigators will not be endangered. He added it was advisable for the Attorney General's Office to make that request to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

Montano's position on the massacre shows that the truth regarding this case must be sought through independent humanitarian organizations, such as the Truth Commission [Comision de la Verdad], ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador], and other international experts; in addition to society's mobilization and condemnation so this horrible crime does not go unpunished.

The FMLN has reiterated on numerous occasions that it can provide all the facilities to conduct any type of investigation in El Mozote Canton, Morazan Department. If the Attorney General's Office or any other organization wants to begin the investigation, it has all the necessary guarantees in this area of Morazan.

'Preliminary Agreements' on Police Reached

PA0112220391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1947 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] San Miguel Allende, 1 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government have reached "preliminary agreements" regarding the new National Civilian Police (PNC), a guerrilla spokesperson reported here on 1 December.

"These are preliminary agreements on the doctrine and conception of the new security corps," Nidia Diaz, a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), told NOTIMEX.

The rebels and the Salvadoran Government agreed to declare a recess in the peace negotiations, which will resume on 3 December in this city located in the central State of Guanajuato, approximately 350 km north of Mexico City.

Attending the talks after the recess will be UN mediator Alvaro De Soto, who traveled to New York to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Diaz said that the FMLN and the representatives of President Alfredo Cristiani reached agreements on the operational and territorial structure of the PNC, which will begin operating after the war is over.

The parties are on what seems to be "the home stretch" of the negotiations in order to sign a definitive cease-fire on 15 December, ending the 11-year war that has resulted in 75,000 deaths.

The FMLN spokesperson reiterated that no political agreements have been made on the security corps as part of the "temporary administration" and the purge and reorganization of the Armed Forces.

The FMLN spokesperson added that the recess will permit the parties to analyze the proposals made at the bargaining table.

Several FMLN commanders from the battlefield will return to their positions in El Salvador to check on the current status of the unilateral truce declared by the rebels on 16 November.

Diaz ruled out that the 34 bodies found on 30 November in a common grave in Jutlapa, Cabanas Department, 68 km from San Salvador, are those of FMLN members "because it is necessary to conduct a broad investigation."

Diaz also said that she did not know whether the victims were killed in action before or after the FMLN suspended its sabotage operations on the economic infrastructure and urban attacks to expedite the peace process.

"They can be victims from the civilian population and not be members of the FMLN or the Army. This will have to be investigated," Diaz concluded.

Arena Rejects Opponents of Peace Process

PA2911155791 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 Nov 91 p 11

[Statement issued by the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, in San Salvador on 27 November; published as a paid advertisement]

[Text] Salvadorans!

In view of the unpatriotic actions by slanderous groups trying to discredit the peace process, the National Republican Alliance (Arena) states:

—It has been supporting and continues to support the peace process in our dear fatherland. This peace process began on the day that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani Burkard, the first Arena president, took office.

—From its founding, Arena has supported and sought peace, democracy, economic development, freedom, and justice in our fatherland. This is so because, as an eminently humanist party, it is obliged, in keeping with its principles and objectives, to seek within the constitutional order, the social harmony that the Salvadoran people so dearly desire. Arena believes that

this social harmony is embodied in peace, progress, and freedom, for which we will not stop working until they are attained.

—We regret that small groups, which have not understood the historic moment or the Salvadoran people's desires, are trying to sow confusion and revive actions that no longer have any place in the modern and civilized world. We condemn and reject those who dream of the methods of coup d'etats, treason, and violent and bloody actions to seize power.

—Arena again reiterates to the Salvadoran people and the president its total and absolute support for the efforts he is undertaking to attain harmony and reconciliation among the Salvadoran people. It rejects the fanatical and archaic views of those who seek destabilization or criminal terrorist actions. We are sure that the government, with the help of the Divine Savior of the World and the real Salvadorans, will attain peace, progress, and freedom.

[Issued] San Salvador, 27 November 1991.
[Signed] Arena

Villalobos Comments on Obstacles to Peace Process

PA2911165191 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2104 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Nov (DPA)—Guerrilla participation in the new Salvadoran National Civilian Police (PNC) is "an essential condition" for establishing peace in the country, rebel Commander Joaquin Villalobos said on 27 November.

Based on the New York Agreements signed in September of 1991, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) is demanding participation "at all levels" of the new Salvadoran police organization. The conflict will not be resolved as long as the government continues to reject this demand, Villalobos stressed during a news conference in the Mexican capital.

The creation of the PNC and reductions in the Armed Forces are the most important issues in the negotiations taking place in San Miguel Allende, Mexico between the Salvadoran Government and guerrilla delegates.

Villalobos, a high-ranking FMLN leader, said that there is a "general pressure situation" by the Salvadoran Government against the rebels. "We are worried that this could mean a complete reversal of the government's position on the negotiations," he added.

The rebel commander reaffirmed the accusations, made public on 26 November in a strong FMLN communique, of military acts carried out by the Army. The communique called the actions "provocations that constitute a serious threat to the continuity of the truce," which was called unilaterally by the rebels on 15 November.

Villalobos denied that the FMLN had threatened to call off the truce. He also downplayed the government's response of suspending air bombardments and the use of heavy artillery.

He also said that the guerrillas were concerned about the military's position on the issue of Armed Forces reductions. "We feel that the Army is resisting a substantial reduction" of the institution, he indicated.

Villalobos said that El Salvador has the highest military population in the region, with two soldiers per square km. The number is even higher than Cuba, which has 1.3 soldiers per square km, he said. Villalobos said that the FMLN believes that the reduction should be planned according to the territorial extension of the country and the national budget rather than using the country's total population and gross national product as the government and the Army have proposed.

The rebel leader said that the guerrillas are not interested in establishing a territorial division in El Salvador, but there must be a "geographic separation of the warring forces," otherwise "the truce is in jeopardy," he emphasized.

Villalobos agreed that there is a "heavy atmosphere" over El Salvador, but denied that this was the case at the negotiations.

On 27 November in San Miguel Allende, Colonel Mauricio Vargas, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces' representative in the government's delegation, urged the delegates to avoid mutual accusations, hasten the decisionmaking process, and "maintain the best possible attitude so the negotiations will have the effects we all desire."

The Salvadoran military leader said that only the government has made decisions at the negotiating table. He believes that it is time for the guerrillas to decide on their disarmament and demobilization.

Sources close to the negotiations have expressed concern about the risk of a stalemate in the talks, despite the fact that both sides have reaffirmed their determination to reach a final peace agreement before the end of the year.

Honduras

Electrical Power Union Issues Communique

PA3011165191 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Nov 91 p 3

["Communique" issued by the National Enterprise for Electrical Power, ENEE, issued in Tegucigalpa on 28 November]

[Text]

The Management of the National Enterprise for Electrical Power

To the population in general and especially to all organized Honduran workers:

1. The measures taken by this management and the government are in no way oriented toward repressing a free union and the stability of ENEE workers since, as a legally organized union movement, it is our duty to respect it.

2. Given the aforementioned, we categorically guarantee that we do not seek to revoke or cancel the legal status of the STENEE [National Enterprise for Electrical Power Workers Union]. Therefore, all organized workers can rest assured that their rights will be respected. As long as their conduct is within the framework of accepted legal precepts, they can count on the support of this management. We therefore urge you to abstain from all activities intended to destabilize public order.

3. The aforementioned measures are intended solely to reinstate order in the ENEE and to guarantee the Honduran people the certainty of continuous and dependable service.

Tegucigalpa, 28 November 1991
National Enterprise for Electrical Power

Workers Demonstrate in Support of Electric Union

PA2911220091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0615 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Hundreds of workers from 20 labor unions marched today in the main streets of Tegucigalpa to demand respect for their collective agreements and to support the National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union [STENEE].

A Honduran Government decree outlawed the STENEE strike at the El Cajon Dam plant; the decree was extended to the entire country today.

STENEE President Gladys Lanza, however, stated that her union suspended work on 6 November because of violations of the collective labor agreement, which led to the military occupation of El Cajon's plant. Henceforth, the STENEE has refused to return to work as long as the government keeps the soldiers at the dam "because this is not a political but a labor matter."

All of the installations of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE] have been taken over by soldiers; that is why the labor leader held the government responsible for any problem or malfunction in service.

Rodolfo Rosales Abella, labor and social welfare minister, said that the government decree is not aimed at destroying the union but at protecting the ENEE installations and the rule of law. During the march, the demonstrators rejected the government actions and demanded that the ban on the strike be lifted, as they chanted "strike!"

Union leaders announced that next week there "will be a major rally and march," if no agreement is reached that is satisfactory to the conflicting sides.

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said the STENEE's legal status is not in jeopardy, but union leaders refuted that statement by charging that the efforts to dismiss them seeks to "behead" the union.

Union Leaders Fired

PA2911213391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2129 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Nov (ACAN-EFE)— The Honduran Government fired two of the most important leaders of the influential National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) union on 29 November, thereby aggravating the labor conflict.

The Labor Ministry fired Gladys Lanza and Ismael Barahona, president and secretary general of the union, respectively. The union officials have rejected this action as "arbitrary."

The government and the union are accusing each other of violating the collective labor contract, particularly regarding the hiring of new personnel.

"This is a new provocation, and we reject it," Lanza said. She is considered to be the most combative leader of the union opposition.

The union leaders said that by firing them, the government has violated the labor law, which guarantees labor stability to union leaders. In response, Labor Minister Rodolfo Rosales Abella said that Lanza and Barahona "had violated the labor laws by promoting an illegal strike."

Prior to announcing the firing of the union leaders, the government had declared that the strike, which the union carried out at the country's most important El Cajon hydroelectric station at the beginning of the month, had been illegal.

According to the workers, the official declaration has "suspended" the union and left its 3,000 members "defenseless" and exposed to massive firing.

"We will not allow them to destroy our organization," Lanza said. She called for solidarity from all other labor organizations in the country to defend the union movement.

The labor conflict has worsened in the past hours as the government has militarized the ENEE stations. This jeopardizes the country's electricity supply, the workers' spokesperson stated.

Reported FMLN Arsenal Seized by Army

PA0112180991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2204 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Army announced on 29 November that it seized an arsenal in the western part of the country presumably intended for El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

A military spokesman stated that the weapons were found on 27 November in Las Flores, Intibuca Department, on the Salvadoran border.

The source added that the arsenal included accessories for RPG rocket launchers, explosives, bases for 60-mm mortars, 9-mm bullets for Soviet-made pistols, knapsacks, caps, and other materiel.

The leader of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), Spanish General Victor Suanzes Pardo, told ACAN-EFE this week that there have been constant reports of weapons trafficking in the region bordering El Salvador, and that it is presumed that the weapons are for the guerrillas in the neighboring country.

ONUCA has confirmed that none of the Central American governments are involved in weapons trafficking, the chief of the "blue berets" added.

UNUCA Investigates Reports on Arms Trafficking

PA2911044191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0039 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 27 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—General Victor Suanzes, head of the UN Observer Group in Central America [ONUCA], has told ACAN-EFE that his group is investigating charges that arms are being smuggled through Honduras to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The Spanish officer in charge of the 130-men observers' group, composed mostly of military personnel, said he thinks that the weapons being smuggled are "privately owned" and that no government is involved in the operations to supply the guerrillas.

The general did not identify who reported the smuggling to his organization; however, according to statements from a Salvadoran colonel published today in the Honduran daily LA PRENSA, the guerrillas receive their supplies in disputed border areas between Honduras and El Salvador. The guerillas also rest in these areas.

Colonel Luis Mariano Turcios told LA PRENSA: "It has been confirmed that the guerrillas receive much of their supplies from the Honduran border municipalities of La Virtud and Valladolid."

In those areas, according to this colonel, who is the commander of Detachment No. 1 of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, "helicopters drop supplies" for the rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

President Chamorro on Economy, Episcopal Letter

PA2911145291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report by Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 28 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said she was confident that violence in the countryside and social unrest in the cities "will soon be over," because "Nicaraguans want to start afresh, forget sad things, live in peace, and work."

Chamorro, in exclusive statements to ACAN-EFE on 27 November, said that things cannot be accomplished overnight but stressed that in Nicaragua "plenty has been done this year," which she described as "very good" compared to last year.

She warned that she is running Nicaragua "her way" and that "no one is telling her how to do it."

"Compared to 1990, this year has been very good because people can speak, relax, and no one is being persecuted," Chamorro added.

Regarding armed clashes in the northern mountains between recontras and Sandinist military called "recompas," Chamorro asked the rebel chief called "El Indomable" [Jose Angel Moran Flores] to lay down his weapons.

"El Indomable," heads a group of 200 "recontras," who have been accused of burning dozens of vehicles and killing Sandinist followers and peasants in northern Nicaragua.

El Indomable is the only "commander" of the "recontras" not participating in government negotiations to attain peace in the countryside.

Chamorro said she has "great faith that this young man ("El Indomable"), will hand over his guns soon. I do not know what has happened to him."

"I tell him to remember he is Nicaraguan, that his family is here (in Nicaragua), to stop burning machinery because it might belong to one of his relatives."

"I want the whole world to know that the Construction Ministry is building roads (in mountainous areas) to transport coffee and corn harvests," Chamorro stressed.

Regarding the Sandinists, who all year long have taken part in the most serious street disorders, strikes, and the takeover of private and state enterprises, Chamorro also trusts that these activities "will not continue."

"The Sandinists do not worry me because this is not going to last forever. I feel this is going to stop, because we are all Nicaraguan and have a desire to work, even though they never imagined they were going to lose (the election)," the president stressed.

Regarding the Sandinist opposition, Chamorro said it is something that "happens in all countries where there has been a dictatorship, 10 years of communism, of indoctrination—which did not win me over—but everything needs to change."

"Throughout Nicaragua, businesses have been established, some through the 'pinata-like giveaway,' or otherwise, but nevertheless they exist, which has helped the economy," the Nicaraguan president added.

She stressed that the national currency, the cordoba, worth five to the U.S. dollar, "has stabilized," but because people are not used to this, they think it is going to be devalued, "because Nicaraguans are incredulous."

Reacting to the Nicaraguan bishops pastoral letter, Chamorro attributed the contents to the fact that "there is freedom of expression" in Nicaragua, something that did not previously exist.

The bishops said in the document that Nicaragua needs an executive body to uphold the country's laws, the lack of which has prevented a lawful state.

"The bishops are my weapons," Chamorro commented.

"I am the supreme commander of the Army," replied the Nicaraguan president when asked about Archobishop of Managua Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's statement that Chamorro does not have power in Nicaragua because she does not control the Army or the police, which are under Sandinist control.

Government Minister Responds to Episcopal Letter

PA2911133791 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Report on interview with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo by an unidentified reporter in Managua on 27 November]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo stated that the Nicaraguan bishop's pastoral letter is a challenge for all of us to overcome this culture of violence. Commenting on the pastoral letter by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, the Presidency minister added that violence and the shortage of jobs, which were mentioned by the Catholic hierarchy, are also a challenge for all Nicaraguans.

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] Tragedy has spared no one. Poverty is everywhere. It is everyone's job to see how we can overcome these problems. The letter issued by the pastors prompts us to act to ensure that neither the government or the parties contribute to that violent culture. The challenge lies in escaping that culture of violence.

[Reporter] Minister Lacayo, Assembly President Alfredo Cesar told the press that a precondition for the national dialogue is that the government and the 14 political parties of the National Opposition Union [UNO] agree and end their differences [words indistinct], what is your opinion on this?

[Lacayo] I believe that placing a precondition for a dialogue process is placing an obstacle to reaching the objectives. I do not believe that the dialogue should have preconditions. There is, however, an agreement between the government and the 14 parties, that the talks take place in stages. First, the government and the 14 political parties will talk. This possibly will take place on 3 December because the 14 parties have not completed the agenda. We agreed with Mr. (Hugo), who is a member of the Work Committee, that the meeting would take place on 3 December.

We will talk with the UNO parties on 3 December. At the end of that week or the next, or perhaps the week before Christmas, we hope to start the tripartisan discussions. We do not believe that all the issues on the agenda must be discussed as a precondition to begin the tripartisan talks. This is an effort to ease tensions in the country. We believe that on 3 December we will determine what measures are needed to promote an atmosphere to ease tensions further. If we are going to enter a national three-part dialogue, this would come in a second stage. I would not call it a precondition, I would rather call it another stage in the dialogue process. [end recording]

Ortega Talks About Chamorro, Cuba in Interview

PY0112223691 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Nov 91 p 9

["Exclusive" interview with former President Daniel Ortega by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO—place and date not given; first paragraph is an introduction to interview]

[Text] Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], confronted and defeated the forces of dictator Anastasio Somoza. As soon as he gained power he showed his inclination toward the left-wing, a fact that made him gain new enemies: the United States and the contra guerrillas financed by Washington. After 11 years in power, Ortega decided to call for elections in 1990 and was defeated by Violeta Chamorro, leader of the National Opposition Union [UNO]. He decided to cooperate with the new government. Ortega, 46, has been married twice and has 11 children. The United States still mistrusts him. He supports his even more isolated friend Fidel Castro and praises the national conciliation achieved by his old rival Violeta. Ortega, who is attending the first national congress of the Workers

Party [PT] in Sao Paulo, granted the following exclusive interview to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO.

[O ESTADO] What is the current situation in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] The pacification of the country was achieved after the 1990 elections. Most former contras laid down their arms and joined the political and socioeconomic life, despite the fact that some groups continue to resist. Consequently, pacification can be regarded as one of the greatest victories of the Nicaraguan people, the government, and the Sandinist Front. However, we face serious economic problems. The investments expected (under Violeta's administration) have not been made and the unemployment rate is higher than ever.

[O ESTADO] Much has been said about the pinata, that is, the distribution of lands and properties promoted by the Sandinists before they left the government. You are criticized for the mansion you acquired.

[Ortega] The pinata was a campaign promoted by minority groups which destroyed the moral capital, and was the only campaign completed by the Sandinists. On referring to the pinata, one does not exactly think about the well-known mansions...

[O ESTADO] It was said that your mansion cost $2 million.

[Ortega] It costs more than $100,000. The fact that we lacked money even to buy a house is the best proof of the honesty shown by the Sandinists during their administration.

[O ESTADO] Is it possible to resolve the problem by returning the house?

[Ortega] This would suit me. I have friends who have offered me other houses, but this is a political problem. If I decide to move from my house I will establish a precedent that could lead to the expropriation of the small parcels of land granted to thousands of poor people to build their houses.

[O ESTADO] Would you suggest to Fidel Castro that he implement in Cuba the opening process you promoted in your country?

[Ortega] I talked with Fidel on the demands being made so that he can permit a multiparty system and to promote the elections. If elections are carried out in Cuba, I am sure that Fidel will win. The problem is that this victory will not be regarded as legitimate by the United States, a country which Fidel and the Sandinists dared to defy. If Daniel Ortega had defeated Violeta Chamorro, the United States would have continued to boycott us. The U.S. Government had warned me about this before the elections. The multiparty system is not the only condition required to improve the situation in Cuba. If the United States lifts the embargo imposed on Cuba, Fidel will be in a better condition to take the political initiative.

[O ESTADO] Chile, Mexico, and Argentina have obtained good economic results with their approach to the United States and the First World.

[Ortega] Regarding Chile, economic growth did not benefit the people and was not promoted under the multiparty system but rather under Pinochet's dictatorship. As for Mexico, the United States has imposed an advantageous de-facto relationship, without assuming major commitments. Mexico is properly trying to regulate this relationship to take its commercial advantage.

[O ESTADO] It is said that Antonio Lacayo (a minister in Violeta Chamorro's administration) is the person who is really ruling Nicaragua.

[Ortega] It should be taken into account that Mrs. Chamorro is a Nicaraguan symbol above all. We ourselves (the Sandinists) invited her to take part in our government after the revolution. It is true that she does not handle the political and economic issues, but she has the merit of leading the country through the reconciliation process. Lacayo is a sort of prime minister who makes the political and administrative decisions.

[O ESTADO] How are your relations with Lacayo?

[Ortega] They are good. He is a pragmatic man, and a businessman who stayed in the country during the Sandinist administration despite the fact that he is not a Sandinist supporter. He has always advocated dialogue.

Government Minister on Search for Recontra Leader

PA2911133491 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Hurtado announced that efforts will be made so the recontra leader known as El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores] will surrender to the authorities, otherwise the law will be strictly enforced. In an exclusive interview granted to Maria Elsa Suarez, Hurtado reiterated that the negotiations with the recontras and recompas have been satisfactory, except for those with El Indomable's group.

[Begin recording] [Hurtado] In the case of El Indomable, we are going to make a new effort so he will surrender. If these efforts are not successful, we will have to handle the matter differently, more firmly. If it is necessary, we will turn to military actions. This does not mean, however, that we will cease efforts to resolve the problem through dialogue. These efforts will continue; we are obliged to make these efforts. We clearly believe that this situation cannot continue indefinitely.

[Suarez] Hurtado reiterated that there is no room for extremist actions such as those by El Indomable. Hurtado also referred to the unconstitutional nature of the municipal police.

[Hurtado] Armed groups outside the law and the Constitution cannot exist. Armed groups within institutions that have the duty to protect the security of citizens are

legitimate. A municipal police force created by mayors is not feasible. It would be a different matter if it was created as an integral part of the institutions which [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Armed Forces To Act Against Terrorism

PA2811175991 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Armed Forces commander, announced that he will enforce the law against terrorism. He said this at a ceremony held on 27 November to commemorate Soldier's Day. Ortega did not mention the destruction of Radio Corporacion, but did condemn the burning of the Sandinist house in La Concha and the Managua municipal offices. He also expressed his disagreement with the creation of a municipal inspector corps and condemned the actions of the recompas and recontras. He stated that the Armed Forces will ensure that the life and goods of the demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance members will be respected to stop them from rearming. Ortega announced that the Army will act against violence, but did not say how he plans to disarm civilians. The Soldier's Day event was presided over by President Violeta Chamorro and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who is her son-in-law.

UNO Presents Issues for Discussion to Government

PA3011031991 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The Political Council of the National Opposition Union [UNO] at 1400 on 29 November handed to members of the government commission a 13-point proposal containing the issues that should be discussed at upcoming talks with the executive branch.

The points proposed by UNO are 1. Compliance with the UNO government program, 2. Constitutional amendments, 3. Property Law, 4. Implementation of effective and real civilian disarmament, 5. Democratization and modernization of the judicial branch, 6. Combat state corruption and nepotism, 7. State preservation of public order, 8. Depoliticizing of the Army and police, 9. Situation of privatization [words indistinct], 10. Economic revival, 11. Compliance with Presidency-UNO agreements, 12. Verification and follow-up of dialogue agreements, 13. UNO-executive branch agreement to solve national problems.

Meanwhile, ucon receiving UNO's proposal, members of the government commission said the executive branch wishes to discuss general issues such as peace, democracy, and national reconciliation, which have already been examined for many years.

Panama

Security Forces Raid Companies After Coup Tip

PA2911213991 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Nov 91 pp 76, 58

[Report by Roberto Cubilla]

[Text] On the morning of 28 November, more than 60 men from the Institutional Protection Service [SPI], wearing full combat gear and armed with all types of automatic weapons, raided the offices of "Delta Security," a private security guard agency located on 54th Street, Obarrio, Panama City.

According to prominent Panamanian businessman Alberto Barrios, the company's owner, the SPI commandos entered the offices in military assault fashion, climbing the fences and surrounding the premises in a tactical deployment. Six employees were subdued, thrown to the floor, handcuffed, and searched by armed government agents.

The commandos were lead by Jose Antonio Sierra, a Ministry of Government and Justice legal adviser, who said that the operation was a routine search.

Alberto Barrios said that Sierra had produced no authorization for such a search operation and called the action a "vulgar assault on private property." Barrios said that while dozens of agents stood guard on 54th Street, others searched the offices, read the mail, and dismantled several file cabinets on the pretext that "they had received a tip about a subversive movement."

When the assault on the agency began, the security guards called the San Francisco Police Station and reported that they were the victims of a holdup. The police answered the call and were intercepted by Sierra himself, who advised them that it was a search.

Barrios added that the SPI agents were armed with Uzi machine guns, submachine guns, and T65 and M16 combat rifles. He complained that the authorities did not have the proper search warrants. The "assault troops" were wearing civilian clothing and showed no identification. Barrios thought they were criminals.

Sierra, who is a lawyer, asked to see a copy of the company's labor regulations; public registration papers; ownership papers; a certified company asset report; a list of employees, their addresses, and a copy of their police record; and a copy of the company's liability and live insurance policies covering the guards. Alberto Barrios said that the information was all administrative and that such information could not be requested on a holiday.

Barrios rejected statements by SPI Chief Carlos Bares, who reported receiving a "tip-off" about security guard agencies being involved in a plot to overthrow President Guillermo Endara. Alberto Barrios was the assistant manager of the Panamanian Tourism Institute during the eighties.

Members of the Directorate of Police Information and Investigation (DIIP) and the SPI, "armed to the teeth," as the saying goes, on 28 November began a series of "surprise operations" at several private security agencies in an attempt to find weapons that could be used in a possible coup d'etat.

In an attitude that neighbors described as arbitrary, authoritarian, and arrogant, the armed police group searched four private security companies looking for the alleged arsenal, apparently without success. The DIIP and SPI units broke into the security guard agencies wearing combat gear reminiscent of the hated former Panama Defense Forces G-2 Intelligence Department.

In the Obarrio residential area, where CRITICA LIBRE reporters were covering the events, we witnessed the units' entry at Delta Security, International. They kicked a door down, forced open several car doors, and caused general panic among the neighbors.

The men wore black T-shirts, blue jeans, and military boots. The group of DIIP and SPI units were carrying sophisticated weapons, including M16 rifles, AK-47 submachine guns, and shotguns. A black baseball cap and jacket bearing the force's initials completed the outfit. Although they made no statements to the members of the press, they did threaten to confiscate two EL PANAMA AMERICA reporter's cameras. The fleet of vehicles used by the DIIP and SPI comprised several types of cars, nine in all. The cars were driven by defiant, heavily-armed policemen.

Despite the CRITICA LIBRE reporters' journalistic interest in learning the details of the unexpected operation, it was impossible to gather any information because of the threatening and aggressive way in which the policemen answered questions.

We were unable to determine if the search operation directed at the security agencies was part of the police security operation called "Safe Christmas," which National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez announced during a 27 November press conference.

What did confuse the press was the absence of National Police units, as all those participating in the 28 November activities were Presidency personnel.

Endara Defends Raids

PA2911222691 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The Institutional Protection Service [SPI] participated in a number of raids on private security agencies on 28 November. That has been criticized by various sectors, which maintain that the SPI has no legal authority to engage in such activity.

[Begin recording] [President Guillermo Endara Galimany] Look, the SPI did not stage a raid on any residence. The SPI was created to safeguard the Presidency of the Republic in the person of its president, and to carry out other activities as assigned by the president of the Republic. I have asked the SPI to lend assistance whenever it is requested by another state police institution. The Government and Justice Ministry decided to carry out some raids or inspections—I think they are more properly termed inspections—of security agencies, and requested SPI assistance. The SPI participated only in a support capacity. In other words, it was not an action by the SPI or the Presidency. It was an action carried out by the government and Justice Ministry, in its proper and legal authority to oversee security agencies.

[Unidentified reporter] Why was the action requested?

[Endara] For some time we have been greatly concerned by the proliferation of private security agencies. In some cases armed individuals have been seen and that has concerned citizens or businessmen. On investigation, we realized that private security agencies were involved. So we have had to establish a system to regulate those services. It is not easy, particularly because there are many private agencies, but it is necessary to supervise them, because those institutions are using weapons that are very similar to the weapons used by the police.

[Reporter] Do you realize that workers at those security agencies called the police? How do you explain that the police arrived and the SPI proved to be the most violent?

[Endara] The SPI was the most violent?

[Reporter] That is what the security agency representatives have stated.

[Second unidentified reporter] What about the Editorial Panama America, S.A. reporters on 28 November?

[Endara] No, no. One thing is true, when special measures need to be taken, one has to establish a security cordon. I believe that a reporter abuses his privileges when he or she violates that security perimeter. I believe we must facilitate a reporter's job, and I am the first person to encourage that, but not by crossing police or fire security cordons. There have been some real abuses there. Some reporters have actually admitted that to me. The SPI was asked to participate and to assist. The SPI really has three jobs: Guard the presidential palace, guard the president, and carry out jobs as the president orders. I ordered the SPI to assist and to support all ministries, the National Police, the Judicial Technical Police—to help them, to go to their rescue, give them assistance. In this specific case, the government and Justice Ministry, which controls private security agencies, asked the SPI to help and give a hand with this activity. It is not the SPI that was conducting the activity.

[Reporter] Mr. President, there has been widespread condemnation of the methods used to carry out these actions because they are similar to tactics used in the past.

[Endara] Look, there are certain security measure that need to be taken and have nothing to do with the past. Remember that those being inspected were not the Sisters of Charity. The SPI was raiding and inspecting armed agencies that are as armed as we are. A minimum of security is necessary. Keep in mind that we were not raiding a publishing house or a television station. We were raiding a private security agency that is just as armed or even more armed as....

[Second reporter, interrupting] Is it true that an Army is being created at the presidency?

[Endara] Not so, not at all. A presidential security agency has been created.

[Third unidentified reporter] Were the measures taken against the reporters the same as the G-2 [military intelligence unit under the Noriega regime] used?

[Endara] No sir. Reporters must know that security cordons must be respected. You are not privileged individuals who can overstep established security methods.

[Second reporter] Did you say that the SPI is more armed than the Public Force?

[Endara] No, not at all. The weapons are the same. [end recording]

Report on Security Agencies

PA3011191891 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena; all figures as published]

[Excerpt] There are currently 105 private security agencies with a total of approximately 12,000 armed men, which is almost the same number as the three branches of the Public Force (air, maritime, and police services). Forty of those security agencies are operating without a license from the Ministry of Government and Justice, based on investigations and documents to which EL SIGLO has had access.

A list prepared by the Police Academy of the National Police for a "basic course on firearms and limited use of force for security agencies" in 1991 shows that 34 security agencies operate with the authorization of the Ministries of Commerce and Industries [MICI] and Government and Justice, while 38 only have an authorization from the MICI, but are not registered or authorized by the Government and Justice Ministry.

Meanwhile, based on information gathered by public security agencies, some private security agencies are storing military equipment and hiring former officers and soldiers of the defunct Defense Forces with the intention of carrying out destabilizing actions against the government of Guillermo Endara.

On 28 November, members of the Presidency's Institutional Protection Service (SPI), National Police, and Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) raided five private security agencies, facing resistance from agents of "Delta Security."

Jose Antonio Sierra, a Government Ministry legal adviser who was one of the coordinators of the operation, said that "Delta Security" was the only agency that caused problems. He added that the agency's administrator had instructed his personnel to resist the raid, and if necessary to shoot at Public Force agents.

Sierra admitted that one of the objectives of the operation was to try to locate what he described as "illegal weapons," specifically, continuous firing weapons, in other words, military equipment.

Although nothing abnormal was detected, Sierra said that it was discovered that some agencies did not have their personnel lists up to date and did not have a public registry certificate or insurance. He added that "the agencies promised to get their papers in order within two weeks."

According to Sierra, the number of personnel in the agencies varies; some have between 7 and 10 employees, while others have up to 600 guards.

Security agencies are regulated by Decree No. 1 of 2 January 1991 signed by President Guillermo Endara and Ricardo Arias Calderon, the government minister at the time. Although the decree regulates security agencies, a well-informed source said that less than one-third of those agencies are complying with the regulations.

Several security agencies have been involved in illegal actions. Some months ago a private agency in Area "A" was raided by police agents, who found a large number of weapons belonging to the defunct defense forces.

Another case involved the Special Protection Agency (AVE), where in April of this year one agent was subjected to electric shock and tortured, accused of stealing $11.

On 15 November, citizen Guillermo Eribain, 34, was shot by Agent Eliseo Griman of the First Security Agency at the entrance to the General Bank, and an employee of the same agency killed Dr. Camilo Perez, a magistrate of the Supreme Court in 1989. The weapons legally used by security agencies are shotguns and .38-caliber revolvers.

Security agency owners and high Government Ministry officials met on 29 November, but there is no information on the matters discussed. [passage omitted].

Forces Using 'Gestapo' Tactics

PA3011134191 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Wolves in Sheep's Clothing, or the Same People Now Baring Their Teeth"]

[Text] The arrogant and abusive behavior by the new democratic G-2 [Intelligence Service]—the DIIP [Directorate of Police Information and Investigation] and the SPI [Institutional Protection Service]—during an unheard-of operation carried out yesterday, clearly demonstrates that the mentality of the members of the Panama Defense Force who remain on the Public Force has not changed one bit.

Those who have followed this newspaper will recall that all along we have been defending the new men in uniform who were publicly humiliated by members of the current government. Likewise, they will remember our campaigns directed at obtaining better equipment for the men, because they were at a disadvantage against members of the underworld, whose weapons were much more sophisticated than those of the authorities themselves. Moreover, we also insisted that they be better trained and we supported many aspects of a new charter for the Public Forces. All such efforts went down the drain when we observed yesterday the actions of the so-called SPI—nothing but a modern Gestapo—when it raided a security agency, causing panic and alarm in the neighborhood where the agency is located as they used tactics we believed had been discarded in the "new democracy."

The SPI, which operates under direct presidential orders, yesterday showed off its large caliber weapons and was engaged in unnecessary intimidation when they allegedly searched for a weapons cache that could be used to "topple" the government. The SPI did not have a search warrant to carry out the operation, thereby violating the constitutional law that clearly upholds public liberties.

If during the former dictatorship there was a psychosis of sedition, there is now a witch hunt for coups d'etat, and that is why the combined assault forces of the SPI, the DIIP, the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], etc., do not conceal their nervousness as they imagine plots everywhere. One day they report that there are rebels in the country, the following day they deny the information. Except for Eduardo Herrera, all of the alleged rebels are running around free.

What is even more ominous in yesterday's incidents—which appear to be the general rule with the new gendarmerie—is that the majority of those individuals dress as civilians, they do not identify themselves, and by their actions they appear to be criminals. As a result, each time the forces mount an operation, the community reacts defensively. The Panamanian community also reacts against these illegal raids because they know that the majority of the recent assaults on banks and homes have been carried out precisely by Public Force members. To top it all off, one must add the growing corruption in that institution and the report that a large number of individuals tested positive for drugs in tests conducted by the Attorney General's Office.

"Every tree is known by its fruit," reads a Bible passage, and in Panama the saying about wolves dressed in sheep's clothing holds true now more than ever. The majority of Public Force members have not changed, but the ones to blame are those who continue to support the repressive institutions reminiscent of the miserable Noriega era, to the extent that the government still rules with that regime's laws and applies them against the civilian population.

Yesterday's incidents only demonstrate how an embryonic Gestapo acts. They are using the same methods used during the time of the tyranny. It seems that time stood still from 1985 to November 1989. Every action results in a reaction. The human rights institutions and the Civil Crusade will have to raise their white banner again. People of Panama, we certainly did not struggle for repression, poverty, fear, massive dismissals, and nepotism. Holy God, Jehovah, Yahweh, Hare Krishna, Allah, do the Panamanians deserve this destiny?

Noriega Plot Alleged

PA3011175591 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Nov 91 p 8

[Article by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Former dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega is reportedly planning destabilizing actions against the government of Guillermo Endara from his Miami cell, according to information that is being handled by the highest security officials of the Presidency.

Public security officials learned about this when they intercepted a telephone conversation that Manuel Antonio Noriega presumably held with a legislator from the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD).

EL SIGLO had access to the information through an official source, who released the information on the condition that his identity be completely withheld. During the conversation that was intercepted, Noriega told the parliamentarian that "he had an ace up his sleeve and that Endara was surrounded."

Even though it has not been officially acknowledged by the authorities, the search of five private security agencies by the Institutional Protection Service (SPI) could be linked to the alleged destabilizing actions being prepared from Miami. The number of security agencies has quadrupled since 20 December, which coincided with the destruction of the Panama Defense Forces and the discharge of more than 2,000 members of the institution, including officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops.

A large group of unemployed former soldiers are now working as security guards and supervisors, and there is even mention that former officers, who had high incomes, have become the owners of some of the new security agencies.

The Public Security and National Defense Council, headed by Menalco Solis, a former minister during the previous regime, was aware of the information and that is why heavily armed members of the SPI, the police, and the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] searched five of the country's private security agencies.

According to unofficial reports, Judge William Hoeveler has allowed Noriega access to telephones and fax machines, which he uses to send his destabilizing instructions to Panama.

One must remember that earlier this year, a U.S. television network released a tape containing a recorded conversation between Noriega and former PRD Legislator Luis "Lucho" Gomez, who has sought refuge at the Cuban Embassy in Panama. The conversations—coded messages—endangered the entire process against the narco-dictator and could have even nullified the charges filed against Noriega, because he was being taped without his knowledge.

Finally, a significantly important fact to be mentioned is that the supervisor of one of the security agencies that was searched on 28 November ordered his subordinates to "resist the raid and even ordered them to fire at the Public Force."

Presidency Raid Denied

PA0112200791 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE EL DOMINGUERO in Spanish 1 Dec 91 pp 1, 43 ////////(Tentative)

[Text] A group of people living in the area around the Presidency of the Republic reported on 30 November that a group of Institutional Protection Service [SPI] agents were arrested after they tried to seize the Palace of the Herons. The authorities have denied the report.

CRITICA LIBRE talked with people living in the area and they said that SPI officers were caught when they tried to smuggle weapons, wrapped in straw mats, through the checkpoints—where they were arrested.

An official source from the Palace of the Herons, who requested that his name be withheld, has revealed that the alleged group of officers are members of a special agents group trained in the Republic of Colombia. The source emphasized that the officers tried unsuccessfully to neutralize a 50-mm machine gun installed on the Presidency's heliport. A maid working at the SPI installations said she overheard a high-ranking government official stating that the rebellious officers had been arrested.

Nevertheless, Carlos "Toti" Bares, head of the SPI, adamantly denied that the events had actually occurred. Security measures around the Presidency are normal, but the atmosphere is tense because security agents refuse to talk to the media. Another report said that more than 14 SPI agents had been arrested.

In addition, the National Association of Security Agencies (ANASE), published the following communique:

The ANASE, a duly registered association operating under the laws of the Republic of Panama, comprised of security agencies providing protection, surveillance, and security services to banks, official organizations, private enterprises, and persons; given the deplorable incidents on 28 November 1991 involving members of the Technical Judicial Police (PTJ) and the Presidency's SPI, states the following:

The ANASE: Publicly **CENSURES** the actions by the PTJ and SPI on 28 November 1991 against the security agencies and employees working on the premises.

STATES that such actions undermine the credibility and support for democracy that the Panamanian people are trying to institutionalize.

INVITES the Government and Justice Ministry and other state agencies to continue the atmosphere of harmony, understanding, communication, and respect we have exhibited in all the talks and meetings concerning security agencies.

[Issued] Panama City, 30 November 1991
[Signed] Juan E. Vallarino, President; Rolando Chambers, Secretary

Security Chief Denies Incident

PA0112200991 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] This is Roberto Rodriguez reporting from the Presidential Palace.

A few minutes ago we spoke to Carlos Bares, chief of Presidential Security, who denied reports of a revolt by members of the Institutional Protection Service at the Presidential Palace.

These were his exclusive statements for Radio KW Continente.

[Begin recording] [Bares] There have been no arrests or any special situation here. Everything is routine. We are conducting security services for high-ranking foreign officials visiting Panama. We have provided security support for officials participating in tourism meetings and for education ministers and energy ministers from neighboring countries. There have been no incidents here at the Presidency.

[Rodriguez] Where did the rumors about machine guns and elite groups trained in Colombia come from?

[Bares] I do not know where the stories originated. Personnel are operating normally. There are no problems.

[Rodriguez] What are the country's current security problems?

[Bares] The security problems....[pauses] We are permanently guarding the country's security.

[Bares] Listeners, those were the comments from Carlos Bares on the alleged situation at the Presidency. He said there is nothing abnormal and everything is in order here at the Presidency. Would you like to add anything else?

[Bares] You may rest assured that, if any abnormal situation occurs, I would not hide it from the press. I have no reason to do that. I would be clear and precise because I have nothing to hide from the press. [end recording]

Lawyer: U.S. Court To Question Former Officers

PA2711180691 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Nov 91 p 12

[Report by Rafael Rodriguez]

[Text] Several former officers of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], who have been held in the country's jails since the U.S. invasion on 20 December 1989, will be interrogated in Panama by the U.S. court that is trying deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega on drug trafficking charges in Miami, Florida.

Lawyer Ramiro Fonseca made that statement and added that the Miami court will come to Panama in December or January to interrogate the former officers.

Fonseca, who represents Nivaldo Madrinan, the former colonel who headed the National Department of Investigations (DENI), stated that Panama's former officers will be interrogated by the court because their names were mentioned by the witnesses who have given testimony in the Noriega trial. Madrinan's name came up when Ricardo Bilonick, a witness for the prosecution, testified that Madrinan helped Noriega to smuggle drugs into the United States.

Although the names of the former officers who are to be questioned by the U.S. court are not known, this reporter has learned that the following will be interrogated: Lucino Miranda, Felipe Camargo, Marcos Justines, Luis Quiel, Julio Ow Young, Nivaldo Madrinan, Luis "Papo" Cordobas, and other members of the FDP General Staff.

Fonseca indicated that "although my client has no great interest in testifying, we became convinced that to defend his interests he should testify." The lawyer also dismissed the possibility that Madrinan may reach an agreement with U.S. and Panamanian authorities in exchange for his testimony.

When asked about the arrival of the U.S. court in Panama, an official of the Attorney General's Office, who declined to be named, said that "if U.S. authorities request permission, there is no obstacle to keeping the former officers from testifying at the Noriega trial."

Court Report Denied

PA2911130091 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has denied that the U.S. Government has asked the Panamanian Government to obtain affidavits from former aides of Manuel Antonio Noriega. He also said the U.S. Government has not requested their testimony at Noriega's trial in Miami. Cruz was referring to former officers and civilians incarcerated in Panamanian jails. Cruz was reacting to remarks by the lawyer for Nivaldo Madrinan [former head of the National Department of Investigations] who said that Miami court officials might come to Panama in December or January to obtain testimony from Madrinan against Noriega.

U.S. Air Force Said Operating at City Airport

PA3011[illegible]0891 Panama City LA CRONICA in Spanish 27 Nov 91 p 11

[Text] The government of President Guillermo Endara Galimany has very discreetly authorized the U.S. Air Force Southern Command to operate its planes out of Omar Torrijos Herrera [Tocumen] International Airport.

Approximately 3,000 Southern Command personnel are already operating out of Panama's international airport and no one has condemned it as a flagrant offense against Panamanian sovereignty.

A similar situation happened when Ricardo Arias, former government and justice minister, signed an "administrative agreement" with U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton authorizing U.S. ships to operate in Panamanian waters, with the "symbolic" presence of a member of the Panamanian Public Force on board, and to board any ship they felt like.

Foreign Minister Dr. Julio Linares, an illustrious international law expert, has said nothing about it. Many citizens are waiting for him to make a statement.

Committee Plans To Commemorate U.S. Invasion

PA2711164591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 91 p 18a

[Article by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] During a news conference, spokesmen for the Committee for the Recovery of Sovereignty announced that a patriotic commemoration will be held on 20 December to mark the second anniversary of the U.S. military invasion. For that purpose, they added, a number of activities are being scheduled, including a Great Black March involving members of the Movement of Relatives of the 20 December Dead and war refugees from the El Chorrillo neighborhood; and vigils and cultural activities to observe what they describe as a U.S. occupation.

The march, a committee spokesman said, will represent the dead, those dismissed from their jobs; and political prisoners and their rejection of judicial terrorism and unemployment, and the lack of democracy and opportunities.

Special emphasis was placed on the case of Corporal Juan Arauz Bonilla, who is still incarcerated despite a Supreme Court of Justice resolution. Arauz shot a U.S. soldier in an incident that is still under investigation.

A resolution was issued denouncing before the country and international human rights organizations the injustice committed against Arauz and the actions of Assistant District Attorney Carlos Herrera Moran and the Supreme Court, which has demoralized the Public Force.

The committee indicated that the incidents have resulted in a feeling of insecurity in all Panamanian citizens.

New Arrest Order for U.S. Serviceman's Killer

PA0112161691 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Nov 91 pp 1, 25

[Report by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] Assistant District Attorney Carlos Herrera Moran has changed Private Juan Arauz' preventive arrest to house arrest. Arauz is charged with killing a U.S. soldier several weeks ago.

Herrera Moran argued that the policeman "did not kill with cold-blooded intent, but was trying to fulfill his duty. Thus, there is no deceit."

According to the high-ranking judicial official, the case in which Private Arauz is involved is felonious homicide [homicidio culposo] and there is an applicable cautionary measure contained in Law No. 3, which was recently reformed by the Judicial Branch.

Arauz killed a U.S. soldier after shooting at a vehicle, with its lights off, going the wrong way on a one-way street with three other men inside. The incident took place near Jeronimo De La Ossa street.

Herrera Moran expressed regret that the three U.S. soldiers accompanying the deceased have not yet appeared before Panamanian authorities for toxicology tests as requested. Herrera Moran reported he sent a letter to the U.S. authorities stating his displeasure at their not heeding the request. Herrera Moran also stated that it is up to Arauz' lawyers to get the court to grant Arauz permission to continue his police work.

Argentina

Oil Exploration Rights Claimed in Falklands

PY2811231091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said today that Argentina has oil exploration and exploitation rights over the Malvinas Islands. The foreign minister admitted, however, that his country and the United Kingdom are studying the possibility of organizing joint ventures on this matter.

"We are studying the possibility of working together. Otherwise we would have to evaluate the possibility of carrying out the operations on our own," the foreign minister said, adding that "it is not enough to say that we will grant exploration licenses to expect that some firm will come and take the license."

Di Tella was thus referring to the simultaneous announcements by the Argentine and UK Governments at the beginning of the week, each one claiming their own sovereignty and respective rights for exploring and exploiting mineral resources in the islands.

"We believe that mining exploration, and particularly oil exploitation, cannot be carry out in the Malvinas Islands if we do not have a minimum of cooperation between the two parties, even though always under the umbrella formula" through which each country claims sovereignty rights over the islands, Di Tella said.

The minister expressed hope that the negotiations [passage indistinct] although ratifying that Argentina "will continue to reiterate its sovereignty rights over the area."

Menem Meets Haiti's Aristide

PY3011142091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1008 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Report by special NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS correspondent]

[Text] Caracas, 30 Nov (NA)—In his last official activity before traveling to Puerto de la Cruz in the Caribbean, President Carlos Menem met here with Jean Bertrand Aristide, the ousted Haitian chief of state. Menem expressed to Aristide his solidarity and support for Aristide's hopes to return to the island. The meeting was held yesterday in the presidential suite that Menem occupied on the 13th floor of the Caracas Hilton Hotel. According to Aristide, the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Speaking to Argentine journalists, the ousted Haitian chief of state expressed his concern because some powerful countries, which he did not identify, "are not complying with the blockade imposed on Haiti" because "a tanker arrived in Port-au-Prince a few days ago."

Aristide said that his efforts "are not only aimed at recovering power, but also at championing the principles of democracy and liberty."

Aristide stressed: "The international community now must prove the level of its critical conscience concerning democracy and must do what it must do to prevent a de facto government from continuing in Haiti."

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More Police 'Supergang' Arrests Made

PY2911214291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Nov 91 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The federal police captured yesterday four more members of a "supergang" of senior police officers dedicated to kidnapping wealthy businessmen, bringing the total number of arrests so far to 12.

Besides former intelligence agent Raul Guglielminetti, hotel owner Ramon Abalos was taken into custody late yesterday afternoon as well as two men identified by the nicknames "Ojito" and "Poroto."

At the same time, Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano confirmed that Guglielminetti could be linked to the kidnapping of businessman Sergio Meller.

Guglielminetti has been identified by Jaime Meller—Sergio's father—as the individual who collected a ransom paid for his son's release.

While Manzano admitted that members of the recently cracked criminal group could be linked to the 1987 kidnapping of Ralph Clutterbuck, he stressed that "there is no proof" as such.

Concerning the excavation of a home located at 2882 Garay Ave. in this Capital—where Mauricio Macri and Meller were imprisoned—Manzano said it "could produce anything or nothing." The minister was alluding to rumours suggesting that the police were searching for the body of hotel owner Julio Dudoc.

Although the Interior Ministry only recognized the arrest of Guglielminetti and "Ojito," court sources reported the arrests of Abalos and "Poroto."

The latter is known to be one Hugo Aguilar, a former member of the so-called Federal Co-ordination which participated in the first kidnapping of businessman Osvaldo Sivak.

In spite of an intensification of investigations, several fugitives remain unknown. Among those identified is Camilo Ahmed—brother of the supposed group leader, Police Deputy Inspector Jose Ahmed—and an individual referred to as "the doctor."

Speculations over the case took an unexpected turn yesterday when a list of future kidnapping victims was found. It included UCeDe [Democratic Center Union] deputy Alvaro Alsogaray and media magnate Eduardo Eurnekian.

During a raid of a apartment located at 4200 Inclan street in this City, the list was found along with photos of Alsogaray, Eurnekian and other celebrities of Argentina's business and financial elite.

Names of various detective agencies were also discovered, prompting parallel probes to determine if there was any relation between those agencies and investigations already in progress.

According to court sources, one of the detective agencies is under the charge of deputy inspector Jose Ahmed, accused by Manzano of being the head and "the big fish" of the group.

For his part, Federal Police Chief Jorge Passero denied the discovery of a high-tech communications system in a ranch located in the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of General Madariaga, which was allegedly used by the kidnappers to make untraceable calls.

In statements to the press, Passero denied moreover that some members of the Federal Police had covered up the gang's operations and insisted that anyone suggesting the contrary should "provide concrete evidence."

"This isn't a question of supposing or presuming, one must provide concrete evidence," he asserted.

Nevertheless, Passero admitted that "as investigations advance the chances of finding some type of cover-up will increase. Any officers involved in such activities will be handed over to the courts."

Finally, the lawyers of inspectors Raul Gonzalez, Juan Carlos Arza and Hugo Anderson categorically denied that any of their defendants participated in "the nefarious group of kidnappers."

Brazil

Collor 'Unwell,' Resting for Trip to Cartagena

PY3011165291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor, who is not feeling well, has cancelled his trip to Rio de Janeiro to attend a graduation ceremony at the Agulhas Negras Military Academy [AMAN] and has remained in Brasilia to rest because tonight he will travel to Colombia.

According to Planalto Palace spokesman Claudio Humberto, President Collor is not seriously ill. The president merely felt unwell this morning and decided to cancel his trip to the AMAN. Since early in the morning, the president has been reading or resting in the government residence library. He has been saving energy for the trip he will take at 1930 to Cartagena, Colombia, where he will meet 10 other Latin American presidents.

Minister on Policy To Avoid Deep Recession

PY2811143691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report by Vera Lucia Canfran]

[Text] At the National Monetary Council [CMN] meeting, Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira asserted that the new government salary policy will prevent the country from going into a deep recession.

The minister opened the CMN meeting on 27 November by reasserting that the government does not intend to implement any shock, freeze, or confiscation policy. According to him, the 10,000-cruzeiro bonus, plus the Christmas bonus and the reconversion of new cruzados into cruzeiros will ensure a certain level of demand at the market. This way, the government will prevent the country from going into a deep recession. Minister Marques Moreira also said that 1992 will be a difficult year. He added, however, that the inflation rate will slowly decrease.

The minister pointed out that the government is seeking a new agreement with the IMF to advance negotiations with the Paris Club and other financing sources, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The CMN has authorized the Central Bank [BCB] to request congressional permission to issue 2 trillion cruzeiros bills. According to the BCB, this measure would prevent a shortage of bills in the market, because in view of the end-of-the-year celebrations, the use of money notes increases.

The CMN also approved the characteristics of the coin to be minted to celebrate the Rio-92 ecological meeting to be held in June 1992.

Congress Keeps Presidential Veto to Salary Law

PY2811141691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Congress has maintained the most controversial presidential veto to the salary policy: The one that prevents a monthly increase to the minimum wage.

The 216 votes in favor, 222 against, and nine abstentions, show that the opposition parties could not gather the necessary number of congressmen to override the veto. This result indicates a government victory and shows that the government could reach an agreement with at least four political parties, in addition to those that normally support executive branch projects.

Iran Seeks Financing for Hydroelectric Plant

PY2611143091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Nov 91 Section 3, p 3

[Text] Brasilia—An Iranian mission is in Brazil to negotiate financing worth $320 million for the construction of the Karum 3 hydroelectric plant. The project is being analyzed by the Bank of Brazil Program to Finance Exports (Proex) [Programa de Financiamento de Exportacoes do Banco do Brasil].

The Iranians have requested two packages worth $155 million and $165 million, respectively. The project foresees the purchase of Italian equipment while the civil construction work will be done by Brazil. Andrade Gutierrez is the only Brazilian company participating in the project.

The Iranian mission met with National Economy Secretary Dorothea Werneck who said that the project will be analyzed by Proex. Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana was supposed to have met with the Iranians yesterday but he was in Piracicaba (Sao Paulo).

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has said that it is normal for Brazil to finance part of a project like this, seeking to guarantee future deals. Itamaraty believes that the construction of the hydroelectric plant may be a way to deepen economic relations with Iran. The deal should be closed before Christmas.

Haiti To Release 12 Brazilian Citizens

PY2911000891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has authorized the Brazilian consulate in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to grant certificates of citizenry to 12 Brazilians who are being detained in that city.

The 12 Brazilians arrived in the country together with a group of 33 colleagues. They were arrested when trying to resupply the fishing boat that was to have taken them clandestinely to the United States. When released, the 12 Brazilians will take a bus to the Dominican Republic, where a FAB [Brazilian Air Force] plane will bring them back to Brazil.

Chile

U.S. Congress Defeat of Aid Measure Praised

PY0112232091 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Nov 91 p C7

[Excerpt] Valparaiso—Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has reported that the U.S. Congress has defeated the pending draft bill on U.S. foreign aid. The bill established that any transfer or sale of military equipment to Chile had to be reported 15 days in advance so that military aid could be granted to the country.

Rojas said that the information was released to the Foreign Ministry by Patricio Silva, Chilean ambassador to the United States.

Rojas added that the above-mentioned measure had no significance with respect to the decision to limit such transfers to Chile. He said that despite that fact, the Chilean Foreign Ministry and Silva took the steps that led to revoking the measure.

Rojas also said that by eliminating the draft measure, the U.S. Congress has prevented the issue from disrupting our normal bilateral relations. He expressed satisfaction with the decision made by the U.S. Congress in response to the diplomatic overtures by the Chilean Government. [passage omitted]

Envoy Reports on Letelier Indemnification Amount

PY2811185291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report by Jimena Tricallota at Government House—live]

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to the United States Patricio Silva has reported that within 45 days the Bryan Commission will release the amount of indemnification to be paid by Chile to the U.S. Government for the murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his American secretary Ronni Moffitt.

Silva said that the Defense Council is the only institution aware of the indemnification to be paid, because the negotiations between the Bryan Commission and the Chilean Government are confidential.

Silva also said that the [Chilean] Government will release a report this afternoon on the danger rates in some U.S. cities. He added that it is normal to make available to tourists all types of information about the United States, and that a document issued by the U.S. State Department on Chile also deals with the matter.

Silva said that he did not believe that the report on Chile could affect bilateral relations, adding that the largest number of tourists ever are visiting Chile.

He said that although he is not certain, he believed that Los Angeles and Washington are the most dangerous U.S. cities, Silva said after meeting with President Patricio Aylwin.

Aylwin Travels to Colombia for Rio Group Meeting

PY3011171691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Report by Rosa Alcayaga from Government House]

[Excerpts] President of the Republic Patricio Aylwin traveled today to Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, to participate in the fifth summit of the Rio Group permanent political consultation and coordination mechanism. In Colombia, Aylwin will meet with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria. [passage omitted]

Patricio Aylwin will stay in Colombia until 3 December, when he will return to Chile.

The chief of state traveled to Colombia with his wife and national press representatives. In Colombia, he will be met by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who traveled to that country yesterday. [passage omitted]

Silva Cimma Congratulates Ghali, Shevardnadze

PY0112204891 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Nov 91 p C4

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma sent a note to Egypt's Butrus Ghali to congratulate him on his election on 21 November as the new UN secretary general.

The Chilean Government on 22 November conveyed its support for Butrus Ghali's designation, which must be ratified by the UN General Assembly.

Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas expressed the Chilean Government's satisfaction at the election and pointed out that Ghali has greatly contributed to international relations.

Ghali will replace Peru's Javier Perez de Cuellar on 1 January 1992.

Silva Cimma also sent a special message to Eduard Shevardnadze for his reelection as the foreign minister of the Union of Sovereign States (formerly USSR). It was noted that the message was not formal, considering the friendship between Shevardnadze and Silva Cimma.

Colombia

Guerrillas Release Kidnapped U.S. Engineers

PA2911165091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1557 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 29 Nov (EFE)—Colombian authorities reported on 29 November that four engineers—three U.S. citizens and one Colombian—kidnapped by the Army of National Liberation (ELN) were released after a ransom was paid.

They are U.S. engineers Gary Sant, Robert Gogan, and John Watwis, who will return to their country, and Colombian Ignacio Alonso. They work for ADCO [expansion unknown] a firm dedicated to civil work in oil exploration projects.

The four engineers were kidnapped on 25 November 1990 near Tibu, in Norte de Santander Department, in northeastern Colombia.

Authorities in that department said that the engineers were released after a ransom ranging between $800,000 to $1 million was paid.

The sources said that the ELN conducted the kidnappings for economic reasons, adding that the engineers are in good health and are currently in Cucuta, the capital of Norte de Santander Department.

CNGSB Peace Talks Given 'Priority Status'

PA2911182491 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Nov 91 p 6

[Text] The government announced on 21 November that it will give the peace process with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] executive priority status. The government has prohibited regional talks and is holding governors responsible for maintaining order.

Government Minister Humberto de la Calle said there is a system for prioritizing issues of public order that allows the president to maintain order on a nationwide basis. This does not detract from the mayors' and governors' responsibility to maintain public order, as they are the police authorities.

"We have said before that, pursuant to this constitutional provision, only the Government ministry and the

presidential adviser for peace are authorized to hold talks with the guerrillas," the government minister stated.

De la Calle Lombana said that this was an executive order and that no national, departmental, or municipal public official was authorized to hold talks with the guerrillas.

If such authorization were given, De la Calle added, these regional talks would be directed at maintaining peace.

The minister said that the government has always understood that any peace process must be preceded by a sincere desire for complete demobilization of the guerrillas.

Ricardo Santamaria, presidential adviser for national security, said that the government will recruit 10,000 men to perform intelligence work for the public forces.

He said that the government has bolstered the capabilities of the public force and, with the arrival of these 10,000 men, the whole intelligence system will contribute toward maintaining public order.

Santamaria said that the government has received reports from its intelligence services that the CNGSB could be planning an offensive toward the end of the year. He affirmed that the government is ready to face such an offensive.

Commission Asks Guerrillas for Cease-Fire

PA3011231991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2348 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Advisory Commission on Public Order on 28 November asked the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB) to declare a cease-fire to prevent the suspension of peace talks.

The government's advisory commission said in a communique that the recess declared during the most recent round of talks in Venezuela should not lead to an escalation of violence by the rebels.

On 27 November the Armed Forces accused the guerrillas of initiating a new offensive with the murder of eight judicial employees in southern Santa Fe de Bogota.

"In view of the situation, the commission urges the CGSB to suspend its offensive actions immediately as an excellent contribution to the peace process," the communique added.

The advisory commission for the talks between the government and the guerrillas recommended that the consultations announced by the rebel groups on the progress made during negotiations "should be held as soon as possible in order to resume the talks" in Caracas.

The CGSB delegates will arrive from Caracas in the next few hours to meet with members of their high command to discuss issues such as the cease-fire, which have prevented the signing of a peace agreement.

According to the commission, any situation that could endanger the resumption of the talks, scheduled for February, should be avoided.

Horacio Serpa, commissioner for the ruling Liberal Party, said: "I believe that it is necessary to establish a climate of coexistence and confidence. To accomplish this, we have asked the guerrillas to suspend offensive actions immediately."

The Colombian Government warned on 27 November that if members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia were found to have participated in the attack on members of the judicial branch, it "will not return to the negotiating table."

Government-Rebel Talks at 'Critical Point'

PA3011165491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2247 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 29 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The negotiations between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas reached their most critical point on 29 November, after a judge ordered a warrant for the arrest of several rebel commanders who are participating in the peace talks.

The measure affects Manuel Marulanda Velez, top leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and FARC Commanders Raul Reyes, Timoleon Gomez, Ivan Marquez, and Alfonso Cano; the last two are delegates in the peace talks.

The judge's decision, which implicates the FARC General Staff in assassinations, massacres, and kidnappings, was issued one day after the guerrillas, who were participating in the peace talks in the Venezuelan capital, returned to the country.

Colombian Government Minister Humberto de La Calle Lombana reiterated today that the latest rebel actions in the country "hinder" the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas.

According to the minister, "there are serious indications" that the FARC was involved in the massacre of eight judicial employees last Tuesday in the southern part of the Colombian capital.

Minister de la Calle Stated issued a communique stating that actions such as the attack on the judicial delegation "go against the guerrillas' pledge not to attack the civilian population and raises doubt as to the sincerity of their intentions for peace."

FARC, together with the Army of National Liberation (ELN) and a dissident group of the demobilized Popular Liberation Army (EPL), formed the Simon Bolivar

National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB), which on 3 June began peace talks with the government of President Cesar Gaviria.

According to sources close to the process, the warrant for the arrest of the two rebel delegates and the government's strong pronouncement might bring to an end the talks, which were scheduled to begin again in February in Caracas.

The guerrilla delegates, who arrived from Caracas last night, will hold consultations for two months with the High Command with regard to the progress reached during the five months of negotiations.

Gaviria Warns Rebels on Continuing Talks

PA0212003491 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria has notified the rebels that talks will continue only if progress is made and if the rebels stop using violence and mocking or snubbing the hand extended by the government.

The president made these statements during the installation ceremony of the new Congress currently being held at the National Capitol.

Gaviria warned that society is willing to face sacrifices in the search for peace but not to suffer from violence.

The president told the new senators and representatives that they must work for more changes and for democracy. Gaviria told them that a historical mission awaits them. He said the government is willing to reach agreements with the private sector and the workers and invited them to a social alliance.

The Congress is getting ready to elect its directors. Liberal Deputy Carlos Espinoza Facio Lince from Bolivar Department will be the Senate's new president and Rodrigo Turbay Cotes will be the president of the Chamber of Representatives.

Liberal deputies Jaime Henriquez Gallo and Hector Eli Rojas will be the second vice presidents in the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives respectively. Conservative deputies Omar Yepes Alzate and Jaime Arias will be the first vice presidents in the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives respectively.

Veteran journalist Gabriel Gutierrez will be the new secretary of the Senate.

The 19 April Movement, National Salvation Movement, Indians, and evangelicals are protesting being excluded from the boards of directors.

Gaviria Criticizes Guerrillas' Attitude on Talks

PA0212042491 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0114 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] We are not going to hold unproductive talks, President Cesar Gaviria said on 1 December during the installation of Congress when he referred to the attitude of the guerillas. He also proposed that a social alliance be created in the search for peace, pluralism, equality, participation, modernization, and creativity.

Gaviria said that the new Congress has the mission of building a different, modern, and peaceful Colombia.

[Gaviria] "I invite everyone to join an indestructible social alliance to make Colombia a more just, efficient, productive, democratic, and prosperous country."

He promised the Colombians a new model of government to solve the serious national problems.

[Gaviria] "We want a strong state, capable of meeting the needs of the citizens. However, strong does not mean bureaucratic or inefficient."

Gaviria notified criminals that they will not defeat the law with their violent acts.

[Gaviria] "The criminal organizations are being dismantled; their activities are being checked and their tentacles of violence and death have been cut."

He told the guerrillas that negotiations are not for the purpose of mocking the government and strengthening their armed struggle.

[Gaviria] "The Colombians have rejected terrorism. The government is not willing to hold unproductive talks while the guerrilla groups continue to carry out violent acts and set aside peace."

In his speech before the plenary session of Congress, President Gaviria announced a greater investment in security.

[Gaviria] "Let it be clearly established that the government and society are willing to be generous in the search for peace, but they are also determined to make sacrifices when facing the stubborn attitude of violent individuals."

This Congress has the historical mission of implementing the new constitution so that the institutional changes that Colombians support will not be foiled.

Ecuador

Minister: Problem With U.S. Ambassador 'Settled'

PA2911183591 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report on interview with Government Minister Cesar Verduga Gomez by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Government Minister Cesar Verduga Gomez stated that the national government considers the problem with U.S. Ambassador Paul Lambert, who

strongly criticized Ecuador's domestic policy on administrative corruption, as settled.

[Begin recording] [Verduga] This administration has disclosed the corruption problem in the country. Everyone knows this; you know perfectly well that this is what [words indistinct] National Police and in this ministry. On 27 November, the finance minister dismissed 14 customs officials in Guayaquil and Manta. I do not believe that the (?culprits) only exist in public posts. The figures indicate that corruption prevails not only in government offices, but also in the private sector, labor unions, etc. This is not a problem that can be solved with administrative measures. The process must involve the participation of all the vital groups of the country. The official who accepts a bribe is as corrupt as the one who gives the bribe. Unfortunately, Ecuador lacks the necessary legal measures in this sector.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Verduga] Yes, of course.

[Reporter] U.S. Ambassador Paul Lambert referred to the administrative corruption prevailing in the country.

[Verduga] Look, we all know about the ambassador's statements. That is all [words indistinct] and the government clearly stated that diplomats from other countries [words indistinct] in our problems and solutions. [Passage indistinct] therefore, one thing does not go with the other.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Verduga] Ask the foreign minister.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct?

[Verduga] We consider the problem settled. [end recording]

Borja Ready for Talks With Peru's Fujimori

PA3011032391 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja has officially notified Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori of his readiness to hold talks at the highest level and to reach agreements for a definite reconciliation between the two countries. Replying on 28 November to a letter Fujimori sent him four days ago, Borja said he shares Lima's willingness to reach a definite agreement.

This is the challenge the two governments must meet in the negotiations that we can hold, Borja added. The possibility for dialogue is open and a mature analysis by Ecuadoreans and Peruvians, with the possible contribution of states that share that desire, will enable us to begin the new phase of friendly relations to which I have invited Peru, Borja stated in his letter.

Communications Secretary Leopoldo Barriga gives further details:

[Begin Barriga recording] President Borja has replied to the Peruvian president's letter. In Your Excellency's letter, President Borja stated, I find a new spirit that I am pleased to stress. At the same time, I share the desire to consolidate the relations of friendship and cooperation between our peoples and governments, within a framework of understanding and respect, which will enable us to find a path for definitive reconciliation between the two countries. This was stated in the letter President Borja sent to President Fujimori a few hours ago. [end recording]

President Borja said differences continue to exist concerning the 1942 Rio Protocol, which established the borderline between the two countries. Ecuador has declared the treaty is void while Peru recognizes it as valid. Ecuador enthusiastically supports all agreements that increase and make permanent the measures of trust between the two countries and, to this end, the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry presented a proposal to the Peruvian Foreign Ministry some weeks ago, Borja said, without giving further details. We must overcome our dispute in a fair, peaceful, honorable, and realistic manner at a time when history demands our solidarity, cooperation, and utmost efforts to achieve our peoples' well-being, President Borja added in his letter to the Peruvian president.

Peru

Fujimori Criticizes Human Rights Organizations

PA2711190291 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori once again aimed his criticism at Amnesty International and Americas Watch—two international organizations that investigate human rights issues all over the world—during a speech at the graduation ceremony for the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] Officers Academy's Major Armando Antesano Otoya Class. The ceremony took place at Las Palmas Air Base. During the ceremony the president awarded the Sword of Honor to Second Lieutenant Aldo Consiglieri Munoz, who graduated with the highest grades.

The chief of state reiterated his statements about the international human rights organizations and urged them to change their attitude toward the terrorist groups in Peru.

[Begin Fujimori recording] I now repeat what I said before at the University of [name indistinct], where I received the support of the most dignified and progressive university in the United States: It is necessary for the international human rights organizations—Amnesty International and Americas Watch—to decisively and strongly condemn the abominable actions of murderous terrorists, who are the first and foremost violators of human rights in Peru.

I must repeat that I am not justifying one single human rights violation committed by the government. I know the weapons of democracy and I believe in their strength to legitimately defend democracy. What I am saying is that we cannot allow the very same organizations, which show themselves to the world as the defenders of human rights in Peru, to speak mildly or not at all about the violation of those same human rights by terrorists. Why the silence and why the timidity and lack decision in denouncing the violations? I hope my doubts do not lead me to believe that their ideology and interests have little to do with democratic solutions.

Silence is not a good adviser in human rights issues. These organizations have remained silent, in every language, for eight years; eight years [repeats himself] in the face of the Shining Path's immoral actions and crimes. Meanwhile, in their fierce criticism of the forces of public order, all they have managed to do is to play into the hands of the terrorist groups in the country. We all know that those same groups' interest in human rights is nil. [end recording]

In closing his speech, the president praised his government's national pacification plan, calling the results to date formidable, and pointing out the creation of the rural and urban self defense groups.

Fujimori defended the achievements of the decrees issued recently on national defense and pacification, stressing the implementation of a security system for classified information. He stated that the protection of classified information is a must, given the present internal war situation. Finally, he underscored the need for all of us to be committed to national defense and stressed the role of the civilian population in that context.

The ceremony closed with the parade of FAP officers and NCO's and a display of flying precision by MI-25 helicopters, Mirage and Suchoi fighter-bombers, and Brazilian-made Tucano aircraft.

Government Seeks Common Position on Cuba

PY2911173691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker Miller yesterday reported that his office has been participating "in a process of consultation among Rio Group member countries in the quest for a common position of solidarity with the Cuban people."

Blacker Miller thus responded to a proposal by Deputy Fernando Ramirez Alvaro, who a few days ago sponsored a draft resolution urging Peru to support the end of the economic, commercial, and financial embargo on Cuba.

The foreign minister reported that the need to put an end to the U.S. blockade against Cuba has been included in the UN General Assembly agenda and that, because this agenda has already been approved, the subject will be discussed by the Assembly during this session.

The draft resolution proposed by Deputy Ramirez states that the blockade against the Caribbean island must end immediately because it contradicts principles of both the UN Charter and International Law.

Foreign Minister 'Hopeful' on Border Dispute

PA2911170691 Paris AFP in Spanish 0221 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, 26 Nov (AFP)—Peruvian Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker Miller stated on 26 November that Lima is "hopeful" Quito will respond favorably to the proposal by President Alberto Fujimori on the border dispute, an issue that could even affect the future of the Andean free trade zone. Those two countries, together with Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela, comprise the Andean Pact, which is planning to establish a subregional free trade zone on 1 January 1992.

"If Ecuador maintains its intransigence stance, it could block the free flow and trade of Andean merchandise," Blacker Miller stated at a news conference in Caracas, where he is to attend the G-15 presidential summit.

Blacker Miller noted that the Ecuadoran president acknowledged the validity of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which ended the armed confrontation between the two countries in 1942. The foreign minister denied his country will accept the mediation of Pope John Paul II, as proposed by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja. Due to the political framework of the protocol "we cannot invite third parties other than the guarantor countries," the foreign minister added.

The Peruvian official revealed that on 22 November he telephoned his Ecuadoran counterpart Diego Cordoves to arrange a private meeting between Fujimori and Borja, devoted exclusively to the border issue. Blacker Miller indicated that he has not received an official response from Quito on this request.

Fujimori's proposal, which was delivered to Borja on the afternoon of 25 November, contains four points:

—Completion of the demarcation of the remaining 78 km of the border area, as already established by the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.
—Compliance on the part of Peru on Article 6 of said protocol, through a treaty on commerce and navigation that would give Ecuador a free outlet to the Atlantic Ocean through the Amazon River and northern tributaries.
—Signing of a broad agreement on border integration, with a economic and social development plan for the entire border area, with binational development projects, joint investments, and the creation of binational and multinational ventures.

—Agreements to increase and perpetuate measures to inspire confidence between the two countries, including effective actions to limit weapons.

Blacker Miller said that the Fujimori proposal "totally changes this 50-year-old dialogue," and noted he was "hopeful that, beyond Ecuador's preliminary response, our nations may reach a serious and honest agreement."

State of Emergency Extended in Three Areas

PA3011194491 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1820 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] In view of the continued subversive violence, the government has extended the state of emergency in Lima Department and the Constitutional Province of El Callao for 60 days, starting from 30 November.

Individual rights such as public meetings and demonstrations without the corresponding authorization are suspended, according to the decree published in the official newspaper.

The members of the Armed Forces are authorized to continue to control public order for the next two months.

It was also announced that the government extended the state of emergency in the Province of Azangaro, Puno Department, for 30 days, starting from 30 November.

The executive decree published in EL PERUANO suspended individual rights listed in the Constitution and authorized the Armed Forces to control internal order during the state of emergency period.

Alan Garcia Formally Accused by Attorney General

PY2911203091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Nov 91 p A1

[Excerpts] Alan Garcia Perez, former president and senator for life, was criminally denounced last night before the judicial branch by Attorney General Pedro Mendez Jurado for committing the crime of "obtaining illegal profits to the detriment of the state." [passage omitted]

Garcia Perez is the first former constitutional president of Peru to be criminally accused before the judicial branch of committing the crime of "obtaining illegal profit." The prosecutor general has designated Supreme Court Justice Roberto Caro Durango to hear this case.

* Minister's Ouster Linked to 'Fujimori's Men'

92SM0104B Lima CARETAS in Spanish 4 Nov 91 pp 10-14, 16

[Excerpts] The surprising resignation of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara caught President Fujimori off guard even though he himself had been pressuring him to leave. However, Fujimori had expected the foreign minister to submit his resignation and the president would then use it at the most suitable time, making it appear to be his own decision. In other words, Torres was not leaving; they were throwing him out. Precisely the opposite occurred, however, when the patient foreign minister for once took the initiative. The problem now is that Torres took the entire cabinet with him and no one knows what lies ahead. In Defense and Interior, nothing good can be expected if former Captain Vladimiro Montesinos continues to be in charge. In Economy, where Carlos Bolona has accomplished several feats in a row, such as reinsertion, the drop in inflation and, only recently, the recovery of the dollar, the unexpected could happen.

At 1000 on Saturday, the members of the Council of Ministers hastened to the Palace to receive yet another surprise. The president left for the provinces, leaving resigning Carlos Torres y Torres Lara to preside over the meeting. The discussion of legislative orders to be promulgated next week took place amidst an atmosphere of bewilderment.

Bolona, back early that morning from a trip to Asia, was the only one not to have signed the letter of resignation which, like a printed form, had been handed to them by a Palace official the day before, before the cabinet session began. The minister of economy signed quickly, just as his colleagues had already done.

An irritated Fujimori was thus trying to regain the initiative after Torres, sick of the president's own defiance and the attacks launched by the president's aides, anticipated his likely dismissal and resigned on Tuesday, surprising Fujimori. [passage omitted on Fujimori's poor relationship with the Foreign Ministry]

Torres y Torres Lara was blamed for the problems with Ecuador [border dispute], but actually, they were to a large extent complicated by the Palace itself.

The "corridor foreign minister," Luis Silva Santisteban, one of Fujimori's closest aides now acting as secretary of the Council of Ministers, hatched an entire scheme last year concerning promotions, insisting that Juan Alvarez Vita be named ambassador. Marchand resigned diplomatically, but tired of the Foreign Ministry's insolence and mistreatment.

He was replaced by (retired) Admiral Raul Sanchez Sotomayer, who lasted 45 days. The Palace wanted him to cause heads to roll at Torre Tagle, but the Navy veteran realized early on that the Foreign Ministry had the creme de la creme of government officials and refused to comply.

He was replaced at the head of the ministry by Carlos Torres, who came in accompanied by good friend Juan Alvarez Vita (the two are Knights Templar). Torres got rid of Vice Minister Hugo Palma, Alejandro San Martin, and others, but in the midst of the crisis with Ecuador, it was perceived that the regular Torre Tagle team worked better than the people backed by the Palace.

Silva Santisteban and Fujimori's men like Juan Alvarez Vita, who gave the minister the erroneous map of the boundary marker, acted stupidly or with malicious intent. [passage omitted]

Another Pruning?

There is now talk of a 40-percent cut in the Foreign Ministry's budget in 1992. If such is the case, many embassies will have to be shut down. Some claim the government wants to behead the Foreign Ministry, getting rid of 50 percent of the diplomats, similar to what was done with the Police (a total disaster).

This government has virtually eliminated any participation by the Foreign Ministry in such areas as the fight against drugs, the foreign debt, and international trade.

The Palace officials controlling the darts periodically aimed at the Foreign Ministry are Luis Silva Santisteban, Carlos Orellana (who has been pushing to be appointed press attache in Washington although he does not speak English!), Santiago Fujimori, and Victor Diaz Lau.

Through it all, the Foreign Ministry's professional staff have labored on, sometimes giving opinions that have helped to avoid serious errors. For example, during the first week of August, when the American Congress suspended approval of aid to Peru, Fujimori considered cancelling his trip to Washington. The Palace even thought about sending a note of protest to the American Embassy, but cooler heads prevailed, advising that Bush's Executive Branch could not be held responsible for the attitude of the Democratic majority in Congress.

Torre Tagle unquestionably has his shortcomings. Unlike in other ministries, there is no organic law on Foreign Relations (although there is a Diplomatic Service Law).

There are too many ambassadors, roughly 80, but Foreign Relations notes that quite often, when promotion ladders are presented, governments add their own recommendations. Every year, about five ambassadors retire when they reach the age limit. By reducing promotions to two, a just proportion would be reached in just a few years. [passage omitted]

What Will Happen?

Fujimori seems not to have understood that reinsertion does not solely involve the resumption of economic and financial relations. It implies much more. One of these issues has to do with human rights, and with a president insisting on a position typical of the world's dictators, the entire plan could be at risk.

Currently, if it were not for the efforts being made by diplomatic representatives to the OAS to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, led by Luis Marchand, the situation would be even further compromised.

In sum, if no rectification is forthcoming and the Foreign Ministry continues to be mishandled, several policies in which Fujimori himself is particularly interested will encounter serious obstacles. Furthermore, one of the few institutions still functioning in Peru will be destroyed.

Photo Captions

1. p 11 (upper right): Fujimori had it in for Torres, but he wanted to be the one in control of the ouster. The president is not loyal to his aides.

2. p 12 (center left): The first official to resign leaves the Palace following one of the four cabinet sessions held last week. While maintaining a low profile, Luis Silva Santisteban is responsible for many decisions made at the Foreign Ministry. His people caused Torres to make several mistakes.

* Fujimori on Antidrug Policy, Terrorism

92SM0104A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 25 Oct 91 p 20-A

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Jose Comas in Lima; date not given]

[Text] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is satisfied with what he has achieved during the first 15 months of his administration and is confident that he will be able to pacify the country by 1995. He states categorically that he will not engage in any dialogue with the Shining Path "bandits," even if such a dialogue were to bring peace to Peru.

[Comas] After 15 months in power, Mr. President, I would say that Vargas Llosa would not have dared to do what you have done.

[Fujimori] All modesty aside, I think that is true. The measures we have taken have indeed been bold and this was possible because I felt I had the backing of the people.

[Comas] Does this plan not run the risk of remaining merely "macroeconomic," meaning that in the final analysis, one could say the operation was a success, but the patient died?

[Fujimori] No. Despite the fact that the social emergency plan is the target of much criticism, progress has been made. In addition to receiving support from nongovernmental organizations, which have helped the poorest sectors of the populations, the people have the direct support of the population. This aid is reaching 50,000 families in metropolitan Lima, totaling some 250,000 people.

[Comas] One of the main objectives of these first months of government was Peru's reinsertion in international financial circuits.

[Fujimori] It was an almost obstinate objective, but you have seen the results.

[Comas] Another important point has been the signing of an agreement with the United States to fight drug trafficking.

[Fujimori] I think that is the foundation for being able to face this problem in a different way, which President Bush labeled "creative."

[Comas] What does Peru get out of it?

[Fujimori] First of all, it is in our interest to get drug trafficking out of Peru. I cannot point to concrete results or claim there is less production of coca leaves or drugs, but there are clear signs that we are moving in the right direction. For the time being at least, I no longer have the coca growers, who number some 250,000, as my enemies. They are on the government's side.

[Comas] Does using the Peruvian Armed Forces in the fight against drugs not help the Senderist strategy by generating a direct conflict between the Shining Path and the Armed Forces?

[Fujimori] That is precisely what we are after, rather than the confrontation we had until only recently with the people, with the 250,000 coca growers. The strategy now consists in winning over the people and fighting the Sendero.

[Comas] During the first year of your administration, there were 3,120 victims of violence. Does that not worry you?

[Fujimori] I am naturally worried that there are victims and human rights violations, but this does not mean that the Shining Path is making progress. This is not the way to determine which of the two sides, the Shining Path or the government, is in the best position. Unfortunately, there may be victims, most of them the work of the terrorists, but one's evaluation should not be based on the number of victims. Rather, it is a question of who has the support of the people. I look at whether the government has the greater presence, whether it has greater support from the population. If the Shining Path were advancing and winning over large sectors of the people, then we would be losing the war, but more and more people are behind the government and against the Shining Path.

[Comas] What do you have against human rights organizations? You recently labeled their members as useful fools.

[Fujimori] I said it three times. I have condemned the biased position of such organizations. They are perfectly aware of the crimes committed by the Shining Path against local neighborhood leaders working on behalf of the community, but did not say a single word about the atrocities. Why do they not condemn those human rights violations along with those committed by the government? I am absolutely committed to this, to a totally open condemnation in order to eliminate any possibility of human rights violations, but please, do not play into the hands of the Shining Path.

[Comas] This is a truly hypothetical question, given the situation, but would you be willing to engage in a dialogue with the Shining Path?

[Fujimori] No, definitely not. Under my government, there will be no dialogue with the Shining Path.

[Comas] Even if it were to bring peace?

[Fujimori] It is not possible to achieve peace with a fanatical organization that commits the most atrocious crimes. A democratic government cannot accept a trench position, which is what terror is. These are not guerrillas, mind you; they are nothing more than criminals.

[Comas] And what about the MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement), a Marxist, nationalist guerrilla group?

[Fujimori] For the time being, I have ruled it out as well, because its crimes are still the same.

[Comas] Would you like to see your predecessor tried? The Senate lifted the parliamentary immunity extended to former President Alan Garcia.

[Fujimori] I will go along with whatever the Legislature decides. I am not a person to prejudge.

[Comas] With a view to the future, are you not afraid that this might create a precedent and that, in another five years, you will be in the same situation?

[Fujimori] Well, here everything is done transparently.

[Comas] It is said that in order to gain access to posts of trust in your government, one must undergo plastic surgery to have Oriental features made.

[Fujimori] That is totally false. I call upon capable people. Naturally, I have to choose from among some of my most trusted friends and I am not going to pick people I do not know well. Moreover, that is a presidential prerogative.

[Comas] Are you distrustful?

[Fujimori] Yes, I am distrustful because I have seen so many things, and in that sense, I also take drastic action. If I see some situation that is out of line, I do not hesitate to chop off heads.

[Comas] A dispute recently occurred with Ecuador over a boundary issue. What is the position of the Peruvian authorities? You were very harsh in a number of speeches.

[Fujimori] I was very clear: authentic integration so that there will not be a climate of distrust on either side of the border. We do not exhibit those militaristic tendencies.

[Comas] But if they call in their markers, what will you do?

[Fujimori] That is how it is. I am not going to take the initiative for military actions.

* Official September GDP Statistics Released

92SM0104C Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
4 Nov 91 pp B14-B15

[Text] The country's gross domestic product rose slightly, 0.1 percent, from January to September of this year, compared with the same period of last year, according to Felix Murillo Alfaro, head of the National Statistics and Data Processing Institute (INEI).

Murillo also revealed that production in September was 19.9 percent higher than it was in the same month of 1990.

By sector, September showed the following trends: Agricultural production rose by 2.3 percent, mainly due to the greater supply of livestock products (11.3 percent) and growth in poultry raising.

Fishing activity dropped by 3.2 percent, affected by smaller catches of those kinds of fish usually frozen, as a result of the expiration of fishing agreements. Mining continued to exhibit negative results (-3.5 percent) due to the drop in volume extracted, mainly by Occidental.

The manufacturing sector experienced a 55.3-percent increase, explained by last year's low levels of production, although domestic demand continues to be insufficient and despite problems with financing and the supply of raw materials and consumable expenditures.

Construction activity rose by 73.3 percent compared with September 1990, a very slack period for construction in the country due to economic measures implemented in August of last year.

Increase in Manufacturing and Construction

In September, the manufacturing sector stepped up production significantly: 55.3 percent, compared with the same month in 1990, when production was very low due to startup of the new economic stabilization program.

Industrial Grouping recorded the following trends in September of this year: food, beverages, and tobacco (95.4 percent); textiles and ready-to-wear (21.5 percent); paper, printing, and publishing (355.6 percent); chemical substances and products (56.3 percent); nonmetallic minerals (98.8 percent); basic metals (33.8 percent); metal and machinery (45.1 percent); and miscellaneous (19.8 percent).

Insufficient demand, financing, and supply problems remain the main factors affecting the sector, according to the Management Opinion survey conducted by the INEI monthly.

Activity in the construction sector rose 73.3 percent compared with September 1990, a slack month due to economic measures put into effect by the new government on 8 August.

The sector continues to be affected by low levels of public and private investment, as well as the minimum do-it-yourself construction now underway throughout the country.

At the same time, overall marketing in September rose by 28.1 percent compared with the same month of the previous year, as determined by the greater supply of industrial and agricultural products in the different marketing channels.

Retail trade rose by 29.8 percent and wholesale trade by 22.3 percent.

According to the results of a survey of 90 retail commercial establishments, the value of sales in real terms for September rose by 53.3 percent, but due to the low level of sales in September 1990 resulting from the economic measures adopted.

By category, the following variations were noted: food and beverages (37.7 percent), clothing (31.2 percent), domestic appliances (229 percent), glassware (68 percent), and furniture (59.8 percent).

Agricultural activity recovered slightly, by 2.3 percent, due to the livestock subsector's 11.3-percent increase in production, while the farming subsector experienced a 2.5-percent drop.

The drop in farm products (-2.5 percent) is due, among other reasons, to the scant, irregular rainfall and a lack of credit since the Farm Bank lacks financial resources. Reduced use of fertilizer resulted in lower production in the following areas: rice (19.8 percent), potatoes (13.1 percent), starchy corn (33.3 percent), cotton (21.8 percent), and so on.

The livestock subsector showed an improvement of 11.3 percent in September, mainly due to the greater production of poultry meat (29.8 percent) and eggs (6.7 percent). With these results, the accumulated production of the agricultural sector for the January-September period was up 1.7 percent, compared with the same period of the previous year.

Fishing production in September registered a 3.2-percent drop. However, deep-sea fishing recovered by 3.8 percent due to the larger catch of those kinds of fish used for fish flour and oil (9.2 percent). The volume of anchovies caught rose by 10 percent due to the expiration of the ban on the species. The catch of other types rose by 8.9 percent.

In September of 1990, the sector was affected by the ban on anchovies and sardines which began on 25 August and ended on 25 September.

The volume earmarked for human consumption dropped by .4 percent, mainly in the area of the portion usually frozen (-53.2 percent), due to the expiration of fishing agreements.

During the January-September period, the sector's accumulated production shrank by 16.3 percent compared with the same period in 1990.

Low Hydrocarbon Production

The mining sector's production in September recorded a drop of 3.5 percent compared with the same month in 1990, basically due to the lower production of hydrocarbons.

The mining-metal subsector continued to record positive results despite the many problems besetting it. Production increased by 3.2 percent during the month due to higher volumes of the main minerals extracted. Iron was up 43.6 percent, copper 10.7 percent, zinc 1.1 percent, and lead a mere .2 percent. Silver production was down 3.9 percent.

Crude oil production during the month totaled 3,419,000 barrels, down 11.1 percent compared with the September 1990 figure, mainly due to the declining extraction of Occidental and Petromar.

The sector's accumulated figure for the January-September period was a drop of 2.4 percent compared with the same period of the previous year.

Venezuela

Perez, Indonesia's Suharto Discuss Cooperation

PA2711035491 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Indonesian President Suharto and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez met on 25 November and discussed the possibility of signing a bilateral cooperation agreement in the areas of health, agriculture, technology, oil, and aluminum. The Indonesian president and the Venezuelan head of state talked for hours on such topics as North-South cooperation, bilateral relations, and improving the treatment Third World nations receive from northern countries.

Suharto, who is on an official visit, will be attending the Group of 15 meeting scheduled for 28 November in Caracas. Following the official meeting, the presidents met with the Indonesian ministers who accompanied Suharto and Venezuelan ministers of finance, development, health, tourism, the OCI [Central Information Office], and the secretariat of the presidency, where they reviewed what had been discussed.

Andres Eloy Blanco, OCI director and minister of state, was the spokesman for the meeting. He said that officials attending the meeting discussed a possible cooperation agreement that would establish the groundwork for other, more specific agreements. He also said that Indonesia is interested in Venezuelan aluminum and oil and our scientists' search for a vaccine against leprosy. Furthermore, he said that Venezuela is interested in Indonesia's agricultural-industrial technology.

[Begin Blanco recording] There is great interest in solving the problems encountered during the meeting in Uruguay, in reaching agreements to protect the environment, and in discussing the Group of 15 meeting. Many countries have high hopes that the meeting will result in more support for developing countries and stronger North-South relations. [end recording]

Trade Agreement Signed

BK2711091191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0651 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By Donald Baptist]

[Text] Caracas, Nov 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Venezuela and Malaysia marked another milestone in the history of their relations with the signing of a trade agreement to set up economic ties between them here Tuesday.

The signing ceremony, at the Foreign Ministry, on the eve of the second meeting of the summit level for South-South consultation and co-operation (G-15), further symbolised collaboration among Third World countries.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who signed on behalf of Malaysia, said the pact would also encourage trade and provide more opportunities for businessmen of the two countries to play a more active role in Venezuelan-Malaysian trade relations.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Armando Duran signed for his country.

Noting the significant growth in bilateral relations between them over the last two years, he said in the first eight months of 1990 alone, trade between Venezuela and Malaysia increased 175 percent over the total registered in 1989.

In 1989, trade between them totalled U.S.$2.4 million and topping U.S.$6.6 million last year.

The trade agreement is the third pact to be signed by Venezuela and Malaysia. They signed a scientific and technical co-operataion agreement in Kuala Lumpur and a bilateral payments agreement.

Later, when speaking to reporters, he said rubber products and palm oil accounted for most of Malaysia's exports to Venezuela while its imports were raw material, like polymers for the plastic industry.